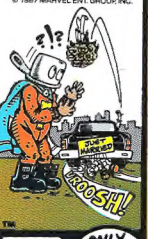
MARVEL
© 1987 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.



THE OFFICIAL MARVEL NEWS MAGAZINE!

MARVEL AGE

54
SEP
ONLY 50¢

EXCLUSIVE! THE INSIDE STORY ON...

The Wedding of the Year

BONUS! SPECIAL CUT-OUT MARY JANE WATSON PAPER DOLLS!

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

Jim Salicrup
Editor and Design Director

Dwight Jon Zimmerman
Assistant Editor

Dawn Geiger
Designer

Sholly Fisch
Coming Attractions

Fred Hembeck
Sage of Marvel Age

Craig Anderson, **Adam Blaustein**, **Steve Buccellato**, **Bob Budiansky**, **Bobbie Chase**, **Daniel Chichester**, **Margaret Clark**, **Don Daley**, **Tom DeFalco**, **Daryl Edelman**, **Archie Goodwin**, **Mark Gruenwald**, **Larry Hama**, **Bob Harras**, **Glenn Herdling**, **Michael Higgins**
Consulting Editors
Laura Hitchcock, **Sid Jacobson**, **Terry Kavanagh**, **Ralph Macchio**, **Howard Mackie**, **Rosemary McCormick-Lowy**, **Al Milgrom**, **John Morelli**, **Ann Nocenti**, **Carl Potts**, **Pat Redding**, **Mike Rockwitz**, **Joanne Spaldo**, **Greg Wright**

John Romita
Art Director

Mark Alexander, **Jose Marzan**, **Rodney Ramos**
Romita's Raiders

Jim Novak
Art/Production Coordinator

Hector Collazo, **Doreen Frederick**
Production Assistants

Brenda Mings
Typesetter

Jack Abel
Proofreader

Paul Becton, **Janet Jackson**
Colorists
George Roussos

John Romita Sr.
Cover Art

Paul Becton, **Pat Brosseau**, **Harry Candelario**, **Rob Carosella**, **Rich DuFour**, **Barbara Johnston**, **Ken Lopez**
Production
Ed Magalong, **Michael Maier**, **Susan Marks**, **Alan Mintz**, **Bill Oakley**, **Dumuria Rumph**, **Peter Watson**

Lynn Cohen
Administrative Manager

Virginia Romita
Traffic Manager

Christine Aurilia, **Tom Fardy**
Friendly Assistance
Sue Flaxman, **Len Kaminski**

Steve Sheffler
Rights and Permissions Editor

Carol Kalish
Director of Specialty Sales
Peter David
Direct Sales Manager Administrative
Steve Saffel
Promotion Manager

Irving Forbush
Ring Boy

SALICRUP'S SECTION

Before we begin our special Webbing—er, Wedding Issue, of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, we just gotta straighten out a goof we made in issue #51. Remember the list of Direct Sales Stores we ran? Turns out we left off a couple. So to rectify this embarrassing blunder, we're listing them right up in the next column in a nice little yellow box.

LAND OF OOH'S AND AH'S
17179 A Brookhurst
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

CAPITAL CITY COMICS
1910 Monroe St.
Madison, WI 53711
(608) 251-8445

Sorry about the mix-up, guys!

Last issue, we promised to run the 1987 MARVEL AGE Summer Annuals Report Card in this space. Well, without further ado, here 'tis:

1987 MARVEL AGE® SUMMER ANNUALS REPORT CARD	OUTSTANDING	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	AWFUL
X-MEN #7					
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21					
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #7					
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #3					
AVENGERS #16					
WEST COAST AVENGERS #2					
ALPHA FLIGHT #2					
IRON MAN #7					
FANTASTIC FOUR #20					
X-FACTOR #2					
NEW MUTANTS #3					
STAR BRAND #1					
D.P. 7 #1					
PSI FORCE #1					
THE MERC #1					

GRADED BY: NAME:_____ AGE_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

Send to: 1987 MARVEL AGE SUMMER ANNUAL REPORT CARD, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016.

Sharp-eyed graders will have noticed that we've streamlined the Report Card this year—instead of grading the story and art separately, we're just going for an overall grade for each title. It'll certainly make tabulating the results a lot simpler!

Okay! We've got a lot to cover this issue, so let's get right to it, shall we?

—*Jim Salicrup*

MARVEL AGENDA

Coming Attractions 1
More Coming Attractions 6
Newswatch 8
Mutant Report 10
The Wedding Of The Year 12
Hembeck 16
Stan's Soapbox 18
Marvel Trivia Quiz 19
The Dress 20
MARVEL SAGA 22
Spider-Man's Bachelor Party 24
The Marvel Age 1975 (Part 1) 27
Letters 30

MARVEL AGE® Vol. 1, No. 54, September, 1987. (ISSN #8750-4367) Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price 50¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $6.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $8.00. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL AGE (including all MARVEL titles and prominent MARVEL characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARVEL AGE, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Second-Class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices.**

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel, Epic, Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing an **October** cover date.

A never before attempted six-part cross-over saga in all three **Spider-Man** titles debuts in **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN!** The **Punisher** tries to turn over a new leaf! The **Impossible Man** makes the scene—and how—in **THE NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL** #3! Meet the Thunder God of 2020 in **THOR!** And that's just a peek at all the excitement you can expect next month! Don't take a chance on missing out on the fun! Tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles today!

Titles Shipping June 2. On Sale June 23.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #11—Has the **Strikeforce** turned traitor? Have they left all humanity defenseless before the ravaging alien **Hordes**? All evidence seems to say . . . *yes!* The devastating truth is revealed in "The Cure." Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Brent Anderson**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL AGE ANNUAL** #3—Back again—and better than ever! Get the inside scoop on what's happening in all your favorite Marvel, Epic, Star, and New Universe titles *and* the first word on all the nifty new projects in "Marvel A to Z." Plus: **Fred Hembeck** previews some of Marvel's most popular series as only he—and the writers and artists of Marvel—can in the wacky "Fred Hembeck Show" starring **Fred Hembeck** and his guests, the **Avengers**, the **West Coast Avengers**, **Brother Voodoo**, **Captain America**, **Daredevil**, **Fantastic Four**, **Silver Surfer**, **the Hulk**, **Iron Man**, **Power Pack**, **Spider-Man**, **Strikeforce: Moriturl**, **Doctor Strange**, **Cloak and Dagger**, **Thor**, **X-Factor**, **X-Men**, and more! And with **Stan's** Soapbox and a special double-sized Trivia Quiz for 1986, how could you miss? Written by **Roger Stern**, **Steve Englehart**, **Fred Hembeck**, **Mark Gruenwald**, **Joanne Spalde**, **Ann Nocenti**, **Peter David**, **Jim Owsley**, **David Michelinie**, **Adam Blaustein**, **Louise Simonson**, **Peter Gillis**, **Craig Anderson**, and **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, **Al Milgrom**, **John Buscema**, **Todd McFarlane**, **Brent Anderson**, **Ron Frenz**, **Sal Buscema**, **Mark Silvestri**, **Mark Bright**, **Rick Leonardi**, **Richard Howell**, **Jim Lee**, **Jon Bogdanove**, **Bret Blevins**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**, **Joe Sinnott**, **Joe Rubinstein**, **Bob Layton**, **Bob Wiacek**, **Dan Green**, and others. Direct sale only. 50¢.

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #247—The killer's name is **Crock**—and what makes him doubly dangerous is that he's an ex-intelligence agent gone underground—literally! His base is hidden in the maze of New York sewers! Even with the **Black Widow's** help, can **Daredevil** find **Crock** before he slays again? "The Backwards Man" is written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Keith Giffen**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. 75¢.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #56—Man against man is bad. Man against mutant isn't so hot either. But when it's mutant against mutant—and they're the **New Mutants** against their rivals the **Hellions**—the result is sheer murder! Will the **New Mutants** go down for the count? Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #31—**Kraven the Hunter** sets out to bury **Spider-Man**—and succeeds! It's the beginning of a six-part **Spider-Man** saga so shattering that it takes all three **Spider-Man** titles to tell! "The Coffin" is written by **J. Marc DeMatteis**, penciled by **Mike Zeck**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. 75¢.

Kraven the Hunter finally captures Spider-Man!

new universe™

☐ **NIGHTMASK** #12—The soul-searing truth of **Nightmask's** friend **Dr. Lucina Ballad** revealed at last! But will the revelation seal **Nightmask's** doom? "Voodoo In Haiti" is written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. 75¢.

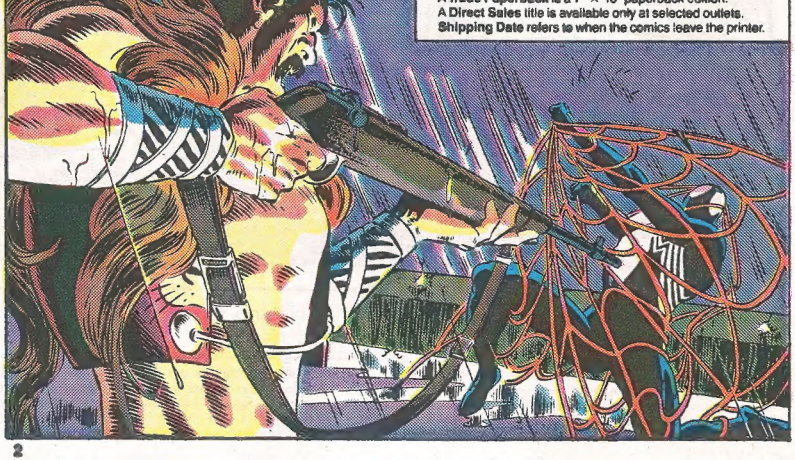
☐ **PSI-FORCE** #12—**Stasi** joins a cult that lets her use her powers for the common good. But is there a darker purpose to the cult that she doesn't see—a purpose that not even her fellow **Psi-Force** members can protect her from? "The Candy Man" is written by **Rosemary McCormick-Lowry**, penciled by **Bob Hall**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #25—**Wonder Man's** movie is premiering! All the **West Coast Avengers** have been invited! Trouble is—the **Abomination** plans to crash the celebration . . . and trash all the **West Coast Avengers**! "King X" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by new regular inker **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.

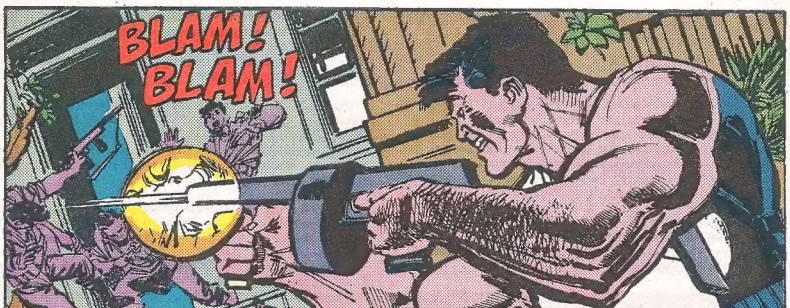
☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS** #7—**Cobra's** seizure of a small nation sparks a bloody reprisal by a fanatical core of freedom fighters. How will the **Cobras**, led by the **Baroness**, crush the rebellion? And what is **G.I. Joe's** role—and why must it remain secret? "The Old Switcheroo" is written by **Larry Hama** and illustrated by **Herb Trimpe**. $1.00.

☐ **THUNDERCATS** #16—**Lion-O** falls into the deadliest trap ever spun to capture a **Thundercat** when he enters the realm of the evil **Spiders**! "Queen Of Eight Legs" is written by **Steve Perry**, penciled by **Jim Mooney**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. A Star comic. $1.00

☐ **THE AVENGERS ANNUAL** #16—Trapped in the Death Dimension, the **Avengers'** only way out is to kill the **West Coast Avengers**! Guest-starring: **Captain Marvel**, the **Green Goblin**, **Drax the Destroyer**, **Death-Adder**, **Dracula**, and more! The final chapter in the saga begun in **WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL** #2 is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, **Jackson Guice**, and **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Tom Palmer** and **Bob Layton**. $1.25.



A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.
A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.
A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.
A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.
Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.



The Punisher's war against the cocaine czars heats up.

Titles Shipping June 9
On Sale June 30

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #51**—After Canadian agent **Gary Cody** witnesses the outnumbered **Alpha Flight** battle the Canadian army's invasion of **Alpha Flight's** island headquarters, he finds himself having to make a hard choice . . . does he follow orders and obey the government of Canada, or does he listen to his emotions, and side with **Alpha Flight**? Which one does he choose . . . and which one does he *betray*? "Friends In High Places" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Jim Lee**, and inked by **Whilce Portacio**. 75¢.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #334**—The new **Captain America** undergoes basic training—and wait'll you see how tough it is! Guest-starring: **the Taskmaster** and **the Blob**! "Basic Training" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Tom Morgan**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. 75¢.

☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #7**—**The Fallen Angels** are lured to **Ariel's** home planet on what they think will be a fantastic vacation. But by the time they discover the deadly truth . . . it's too late! "Triple Cross" is written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Kerry Gammill**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **KICKERS INC. #12**—A relay race designed to restore the **Kickers'** tarnished image turns into a dangerous test of survival for **Kicker Jack Magniconte** in "Watch Your Step." Written by **Terry Kavanagh**, and **Ron Alteville**, penciled by **Rod Whigham**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. 75¢.

☐ **THE MERC #12**—Mercenaries **Lin Griffin** and the **Sgt. Major** train Afghan tribesmen to fight fully-armed Soviet troops—only to have the tribesmen's fight become their own! "Afghan Strike" is written by **Doug Murray** and illustrated by **Gray Morrow**. 75¢.

☐ **THE PUNISHER #3**—**The Punisher** tries to build a new, peaceful, life for himself in the Midwest—and fails! "The Devil Came From Kansas" is written by **Mike Baron** and illustrated by **Klaus Janson**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293**—**Kraven the Hunter** has defeated **Spider-Man** at last! Now he becomes the new—brutal—**Spider-Man**! Guest-starring: **Vermin**! "Crawling" is chapter two in the soul-searing six-part saga written by **J. Marc DeMatteis**, penciled by **Mike Zeck**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. 75¢.

☐ **STRANGE TALES #7**—**Cloak** and **Dagger** and **Dr. Strange**—together in their first full-length STRANGE TALES story! Will **Nightmare's** plot to destroy **Dr. Strange** instead annihilate **Cloak**? If **Dr. Strange** has anything to say about it, it will! Has **Dr. Strange** succumbed to the influence of black magic? **Dagger** must discover the answer—and fast—or **Cloak** will die in "Doorway To Nightmare." Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Terry Shoemaker** and **Larry Alexander**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. 75¢.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #32**—Last issue, **Groo** got rich and stumbled into a gold mine of trouble! This time, **Groo** manages to get even richer! What are his chances of surviving this new windfall? Not even writer and illustrator **Sergio Aragones** and kibbitzer **Mark Evanier** can say! An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF #18**—When **Grandpa** and **Grandma Nutmeg** inherit a haunted castle, **Heathcliff** and **Iggy** find themselves fighting the wildest nightmares the supernatural world can throw at them in "Nightmare At Nutmeg Castle." Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacquelinie Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **POWER PACK #32**—The crack house is gone, but is the drug threat to the neighborhood? The **Power Pack** thinks it is, but the **Garbage Man** and **Trash** are out to prove them wrong—*dead* wrong! "Who's The Villain?" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**, and inked by **Hilary Barta**. Direct sales only. $1.00.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #3**—You want pin-ups? This annual's crammed from cover to cover with 'em! The heroes! The villains! The famous and the forgotten! And they're illustrated by almost every artist in the Bullpen! $1.25.

☐ **X-FACTOR ANNUAL #2**—**Quicksilver's** kidnaping of **Franklin Richards** sends **X-Factor** on a desperate flight to the Moon to rescue him! But when they arrive, instead of a young boy and his mutant captor, they encounter . . . **the Inhumans**! "Man On The Moon" is written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Tom Grindberg**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. $1.25.

☐ **STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #...**—The pocket-sized anthology series packed with fun continues! Introduce your younger brother or sister to the best Star has to offer from **HEATHCLIFF**, **EWOKS**, **MUPPET BABIES**, and **TOP DOG**! A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #140**—**Conan** goes berserk! Who—or what—is the cause of his blood-mad rage that is transforming the nation of Vanaheim into a charnel house? The mind-searing answer lies in "The Girl Of The Haunted Wood." Written by **Charles Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A Marvel Magazine. For Mature Readers. $2.00.

Titles Shipping June 16. On Sale July 7.

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #55—The future for **Iron Man** is filled with surprises! Our special preview reveals what's in store for Shellhead and his friends—and enemies! Plus: the Star Spotlight on the latest toy and animation sensation, the **Air Raiders**! The internationally acclaimed writer/artist **Moebius** comes to Epic! Plus: **Stan's Soapbox**, **Hembeck's Page**, Marvel Trivia Quiz, and more! Direct sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #264—The war between the **Avengers** and the Olympian gods has just gotten worse—**Hercules** is free . . . and boy is he *mad*! Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

new universe

☐ **D.P. 7** #12—**Dave**, the last free member of **D.P. 7** is finally captured! But, as the **Clinic** discovers, he's far from helpless. For when **Dave** and **Randy** team up to battle the head of the **Clinic**, anything—and everything—goes! Plus: revealed for the first time, the *true* extent of **Randy's** anti-body powers! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **JUSTICE** #12—**Justice** has purged the evil within himself! Now it's mankind's turn! Written by **Gerry Conway** and penciled by **Keith Giffen**. 75¢.

☐ **STAR BRAND ANNUAL** #1—**Ken Connell**, keeper of the **Star Brand**, is caught in the middle of a fight of love, jealousy, international espionage, and murder in the Swiss Alps. And he discovers that his best friend is perhaps his worst enemy! Written by **Bobbie Chase**, penciled by **Geof Isherwood**, and inked by **Art Nichols**. $1.25.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #336—**X-Factor** gets a report of a mysterious monstrous mutant on a rampage and discovers that that "monstrous mutant" is . . . the **Hulk**! "X-tremes" is written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Todd McFarlane**, and inked by **Jim Sanders III**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #204—**Spider-Man** finds himself up against the macabre **Man-Thing** in the classic adventure originally featured in **MARVEL TEAM-UP** #67. "The Measure Of A Man" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. Plus: **Spider-Ham** races against time to stop **Uncle Scam's** mad money plot to destroy the economy of America in the third chapter of "Unlucky Bucks." An all-new adventure written by **Steve Mellor** and illustrated by **Joe Albelo**. 75¢.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #4—With not just Earth, but the whole galaxy imperiled, **Mantis**, the **Celestial Madonna**, joins forces with the **Silver Surfer**! Plus: the mysterious **Cosmic Elders** reveal the first part of their devious galaxy-spanning plot! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **X-MEN** #222—**Havok** loves **Polaris**. So why is he trying to kill her? Could **Melice** and the **Marauder** hold the answer? Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri**, and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #198—The origin of **Kaleb the Destroyer**! And the unholy reason why he must betray his friend, **Conan**. Plus: the **Devourer of Souls** discovers the secret of **Soleise's** powers, and the key to **Kaleb's** and **Conan's** doom! "Revelation In The Mists" is co-plotted and written by **Jim Owsley**, co-plotted and penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. $1.00.

☐ **FLINTSTONE KIDS** #2—A treasure map leads young **Fred** and **Barney** on a mad-cap quest to become millionaires before they can become teen-agers in "The Treasure Of Sierrock Madre." Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **FOOFUR** #2—To keep the abandoned mansion for themselves, **Feofur** and his friends turn into housewreckers! But the mess they make is exactly what the new buyer of the mansion wants! What'll Foofur and his friends do now? "Unreal Estate" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Ben Brown**, and inked by **Jacquelinie Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #64—The disgraced **Baroness** out for revenge! **Serpentor's** latest plot! **Cobra Commander's** grab for power! **Dr. Mindbender's** latest experiment! **Zartan** and the **Dreadnoks** on a rampage! **Lt. Falcon** takes some all-new **Joes** on their first mission! **The Blind Master**, **Scarlet** and **Snake-Eyes** on a *secret* mission! There's so much going on, we almost had to make "Maneuvering For Position" double-sized! Written by **Larry Hama**, and penciled by **Ron Wagner**. $1.00.

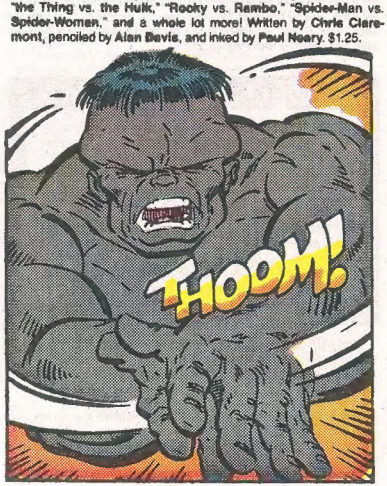
☐ **THE MARVEL SAGA** #23—The linear history of the Marvel Universe launches a new look in the greatest chapters of the Marvel Age of Comics beginning with the **Fantastic Four**!

If you thought **Peter Parker** and **Mary Jane Watson's** wedding was something, wait'll you see what happened the day **Reed Richards** and **Sue Storm** tied the knot! You won't believe how many super heroes and super-villains showed up!

Plus: **Mr. Fantastic** and **Nick Fury** discover the real reason for the great New York City blackout of 1966! **Johnny Storm** is kidnaped by **Medusa** and confronts the uneanny **Inhumans**! And that's just the beginning! Written by **Peter Sanderson** and illustrated by the greatest artists in comics. $1.00.

☐ **SILVERHAWKS** #2—**Commander Stargazer** lets himself be kidnaped by **Mon*Star's** minions in a dangerous gamble to sneak the **Silverhawks** into **Mon*Star's** impenetrable stronghold! Will **Commander Stargazer's** plan work—or will it ensare all the **Silverhawks** in a trap from which they can never escape? Written by **Steve Perry**, penciled by **Mike Witherby**, and inked by **Jim Sanders III**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL** #3—It's the wildest battle ever in the Marvel Universe! It's between those two shape-changers *extraordinaire* **Warlock** and the zany **Impossible Man**! Wait'll you see who these two turn into as they tear into each other, and tear apart the town! Here's just a hint at some of the "super-star" battles: "**the Thing** vs. **the Hulk**," "**Rocky** vs. **Rambo**," "**Spider-Man** vs. **Spider-Woman**," and a whole lot more! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Alan Davis**, and inked by **Paul Neary**. $1.25.



Titles Shipping June 23. On Sale July 14.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #307—**Diablo's** back—more powerful than ever! And to prove it, he's transforming New York City into a medieval fortress! Is there a method to the madness he's unleashing? "Bitter Living Through Alchemy" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN** #223—Shellhead's old foe **Force** wants to go straight. And his employer **Justin Hammer** wants him dead! Does even **Iron Man** possess enough power to save **Force** from the **B-Team** of the new **Blizzard, Blacklash,** and **the Beetle**! Co-plotted and written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and co-plotted and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #11—**Cpl. Marks's** first Christmas in Vietnam forces him to reassess his old beliefs in face of the war-torn reality around him in "Christmas Spirit." Written by **Doug Murray** and penciled by **Mike Golden**. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #131—**Kraven the Hunter** becomes the all-new, *merciless* **Spider-Man**! And **Vermin** is about to discover how bone-breakingly callous he really is! "Descent" is chapter 3 in the special six-part saga written by **J. Marc DeMatteis**, penciled by **Mike Zeck**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **CODENAME: SPITFIRE** #13—**Jenny Swensen's** first solo mission for the CIA might just be her last! For her top-secret rescue assignment in the tropics is about to be blown apart by the super-secret experiments from a nearby hidden base—cyborg soldiers! "If I Only Had A Heart" is written by **Sandy Plunkett**, penciled by **David Hoover**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. 75¢.

☐ **PSI FORCE ANNUAL** #1—What exactly happened to all the **Psi Force** members the day of the mysterious "White Event"—the day they received their powers? The truth can now be told! Plus: **the Psi Force** accepts a new member! But does that mean an old member must go? "Secrets" is written by **Danny Fingeroth** and illustrated by **Mark Texeira**. $1.25.

☐ **G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE** #6—The pocket-size anthology series re-presenting the classic tales of America's greatest anti-terrorist strike force continues! From **G.I. JOE** #s 15, 16, and 17 "Red-Eye To Miami," "Night Attack," and "Loose Ends" are written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Mike Vosburg**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**. A Marvel Digest. $1.50.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION** #18—The Book of the Dead continues with complete biographies and full-color illustrations of **the Living Monolith, the Morlocks, Omega, Mirage, Mimic, Melter,** and more! Written by **Peter Sanderson**, penciled by **Mike Zeck, Paul Ryan, Sandy Plunkett, Al Milgrom, Larry Lieber, Tom Mandrake** and more, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. $1.50.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS** #3—From **THE AVENGERS** #s 47–70, complete story synopses, story credits and full color cover reproductions of such classic sagas as the debut of **the Vision**, the wedding of **Yellowjacket** and the **Wasp, the Avengers'** first battle with **Ultron**—and more! Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. 48 pages. Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $2.95.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #21—**X-Factor** no more! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walter Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #14—**The X-Men** find themselves caught in the middle of an epic space battle in the re-presentation of "Where No X-Man Has Gone Before" from **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #107. Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Dave Cockrum**, and inked by **Dan Green**. Plus: a new heretofore untold tale in the relationship between **Professor X** and **Lilandra** written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. No ads. $1.00.

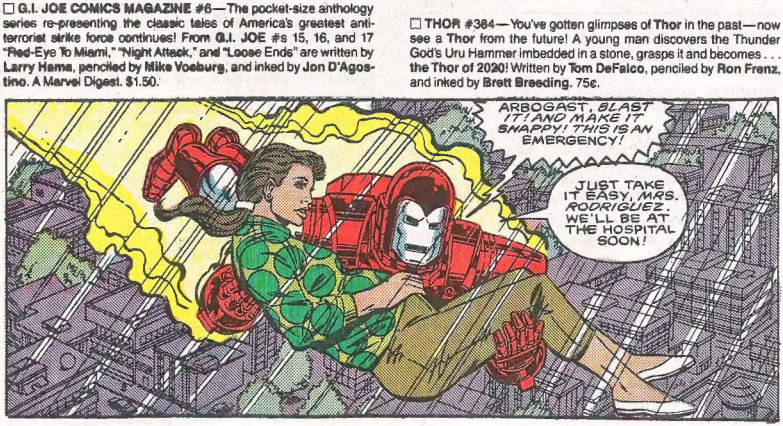
☐ **ELFQUEST** #27—With their dead honored, the elves celebrate the reaffirmation of life as only warriors who have stared death in the face—and won—can! Written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and illustrated by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **MADBALLS** #6—The solidarity of **the Madballs** is shattered when into their world bounds . . . "Madbelle"! Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **POPPLES** #6—It's impossible to be sad and blue when the cuddly **Popples** pop in—or is it? **The Popples** discover that there just might be one trouble that not even they can cheer away! Written by **Tony Franco**, penciled by **John Costanza**, and inked by **Jacquelinie Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

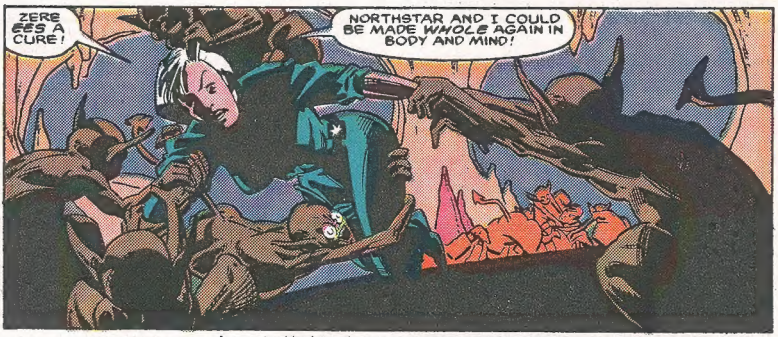
☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #33—When a group of rag-tag kids stumbles into the middle of a no-holds barred battle between **the Autobots** and **Decepticons** will they become the latest victims in **the Transformers** war? Or will **the Autobots** sacrifice themselves to save the kids? The decision is anything but "Child's Play." Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. $1.00.

☐ **THOR** #384—You've gotten glimpses of **Thor** in the past—now see a **Thor** from the future! A young man discovers the Thunder God's Uru Hammer imbedded in a stone, grasps it and becomes . . . **the Thor of 2020!** Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 75¢.



MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

STRANGE TALES #8—by **Austin, Gillis, Shoemaker, Alexander, Portacio, and Emberlin.**
CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS #6
EWOKS #16
GROO THE WANDERER #33—by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
HEADMASTERS #3—by **Budiansky, Springer, Akin, and Garvey.**
HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE #4—by **Gallegher.**
D.P. 7 ANNUAL #1—by **Gruenwald and Ryan.**
VIDEO JACK #1—by **Bates and Giffen.**
SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #6
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #141—by **Dixon, Kwapisz, and Chan**
G.I JOE ORDER OF BATTLE Trade Paperback—by **Hama and others.**
MOEBIUS Graphic Novel **#2**—by **Moebius.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #56
THE AVENGERS #285—by **Stern, J. Buscema and Palmer.**
D.P. 7 #13—by **Gruenwald and Ryan.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #337—by **David, McFarlane, and Sanders III.**
JUSTICE #13—by **Conway and Giffen.**
MARVEL TALES #205—by **Claremont, Byrne, and Hunt.**
THE PUNISHER #4—by **Baron and Janson.**
SILVER SURFER #5—by **Englehart, Rogers, and Rubinstein.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #223—by **Claremont, Silvestri, and Green.**



Aurora stumbles into subterranean trouble in ALPHA FLIGHT.

Titles Shipping July

DAREDEVIL #248—by **Nocenti.**
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #12—by **Gillis, B. Anderson, and Williams.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #57—by **L. Simonson.**
NIGHTMASK #13—by **R. and D. Thomas, Bagley, and DeZuniga.**
PSI FORCE #13—by **Nicieza and Soltares.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #32—by **DeMatteis, Zeck, and McLeod.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS #26—by **Englehart, Milgrom, and Machlan.**
DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #6—by **Higgins.**
MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #10
THUNDERCATS #17
CONAN THE KING #43—by **Kraar and Docherty.**
THE MERC ANNUAL #1—by **Murray and Morrow.**
ROBOCOP
ALPHA FLIGHT #52—by **Mantlo.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #335—by **Gruenwald, Morgan, and Hunt.**
FALLEN ANGELS #8—by **Duffy, Gammill, and Palmer.**
KICKERS, INC. #13—by **Kavanagh, Altaville, Whigham, and DeZuniga.**
THE MERC #13—by **Murray and Morrow.**
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294—by **DeMatteis, Zeck, and McLeod.**
AIR RAIDERS #1—by **Mackie and Jones.**
G.I. JOE #65—by **Hama and Wagner.**
THE MARVEL SAGA #24—by **Sanderson and others.**
MUPPET BABIES #16
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #200—by **Owsley, Semeiks, and Isherwood.**
MARVEL FANFARE #35—by **Zelenetz and Vess.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #308—by **Englehart, J. Buscema, and Sinnott.**
IRON MAN #224—by **Michelinie, Bright, and Layton.**
THE 'NAM #12—by **Murray and Golden.**
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #132—by **DeMatteis, Zeck, and McLeod.**
CODENAME: SPITFIRE #14
STAR BRAND #10
THOR #385—by **DeFalco and Frenz.**
X-FACTOR #22—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson, and Wiacek.**
CARE BEARS #13
CLASSIC X-MEN #15—by **Claremont, Cockrum, Bolton, and Hunt.**
ELFQUEST #28—by **W. and R. Pini.**
THE INHUMANOIDS #6—by **Salicrup.**
POWER PACK #33—by **L. Simonson.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #34—by **Budiansky, Perlin, Akin, and Garvey.**
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #7—by **Owsley, Kupperberg, and Fern.**
THE TRANSFORMERS COMIC MAGAZINE #6

CONAN SAGA #6—by **R. Thomas** and **Windsor-Smith.**
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #4—compiled by **Olshevsky.**

Titles Shipping August

DAREDEVIL #249—by **Nocenti.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #58—by **L. Simonson.**
NIGHTMASK #14—by **R.** and **D. Thomas, Bagley,** and **DeZuniga.**
PSI FORCE #14—by **Fingeroth.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #33
WEST COAST AVENGERS #27—by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Machlan.**
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #8—by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
THUNDERCATS #18
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #13—by **Gillis** and **Anderson.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #53—by **Mantlo, Lee,** and **Portacio.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #336—by **Gruenwald, Morgan,** and **Hunt.**
KICKERS, INC. #14—by **Kavanagh, Altaville, Whigham,** and **DeZuniga.**
THE MERC #14—by **Murray** and **Morrow.**
SOLO AVENGERS #1
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #295
STRANGE TALES #9—by **Austin, Gillis, Shoemaker, Alexander, Portacio,** and **Emberlin.**
GROO THE WANDERER #34—by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
HEATHCLIFF #19—by **DeCesare, Kremer,** and **Roettcher.**
STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #7
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #142—by **Dixon, Kwapisz,** and **Chan.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #57
THE AVENGERS #286—by **Stern, J. Buscema** and **Palmer.**
D.P. 7 #14—by **Gruenwald** and **Ryan.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #338—by **David, McFarlane,** and **Sanders III.**
JUSTICE #14—by **Conway** and **Giffen.**
MARVEL TALES #206—by **Claremont, Byrne,** and **Hunt.**
SILVER SURFER #6—by **Englehart, Rogers,** and **Rubinstein.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #224—by **Claremont, Silvestri,** and **Green.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #201—by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
FLINTSTONE KIDS #3—by **Gallagher, Colon,** and **Milgrom.**
FOOFUR #3—by **Gallagher, Brown,** and **Roettcher.**
G.I. JOE #66—by **Hama** and **Wagner.**
THE MARVEL SAGA #25—by **Sanderson.**
SILVERHAWKS #3
MARSHAL LAW #1—by **Mills** and **O'Neil.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #309—by **Englehart, J. Buscema,** and **Sinnott.**
IRON MAN #225—by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
THE 'NAM #13—by **Murray** and **Golden.**
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #133
CODENAME: SPITFIRE #15
THOR #386—by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
X-FACTOR #23—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #16—by **Claremont, Cockrum, Bolton,** and **Hunt.**
ELFQUEST #29—by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
MADBALLS #7—by **Gallagher, Post,** and **Edelman.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #35—by **Budiansky, Perlin, Akin,** and **Garvey.**
G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #7
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #19—by **Sanderson** and others.
ALIEN LEGION #21—by **Zelenetz.**
CONAN SAGA #7—by **R. Thomas** and **Windsor-Smith.**
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #4—compiled by **Olshevsky.**

Hawkeye and Mockingbird leap into action in SOLO AVENGERS

NEWSWATCH

THOR'S IDENTITY CRISIS . . . POWERFUL CRACK TALE . . . ARTISTS AND WRITERS ON TOUR . . . SPIDEY HITS 25

Chris Claremont at Golden Age Collectables, Ltd. in Seattle, Washington, during the Marvel Mutant West Coast Tour 1987.

THE TOP TEN

Here we are with the latest list of the ten best-selling Marvel comics in the Direct Sales market. This month's list is for February, 1987. And as we like to tell you, it's compiled by our devil-may-care Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish**.

1—**X-MEN #218**
2—**X-FACTOR #17**
3—**THE AVENGERS VS. THE X-MEN #3**
4—**G.I. JOE #60**
5—**MEPHISTO VS. THE X-MEN #3**
6—**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #289**
7—**CLASSIC X-MEN #10**
8—**FALLEN ANGELS #3**
9—**G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #5**
10—**THE NEW MUTANTS #52**

ITEM: Editor in Chief **Jim Shooter** plotted it! **Jim Owsley** scripted it! **Paul Ryan** penciled it! And **Vince Colletta** inked it! The "it" is the THOR Graphic Novel and it features one of the most momentous—and until now—unrevealed events in the life of the Thunder God.

Titled "I Whom The Gods Would Destroy," it is a gripping saga set during the time when Thor possessed the mortal alter-ego of **Dr. Don Blake**. What did the imprisonment of his soul in a mortal body do to the arrogant son of Odin, liege of Asgard? Now it can be told! Be on the lookout for the THOR Graphic Novel, on sale in September.

ITEM: If you've been watching KRON-TV in California or WCBS-TV in New York or listening to the NBC radio network or reading just about any major newspaper recently, you may have come across some familiar folks. When word got out that POWER PACK #30 would be about one of today's most important issues, the dangers of abusing the drug "crack," the media jumped on the story!

Before long, POWER PACK was being talked about in everything from local newspapers to nationwide radio and television programs. And **Louise Simonson**, POWER PACK writer, suddenly found herself surrounded by eager reporters clamoring for interviews!

To top it all off, POWER PACK #30 was also a prominent part of a feature on Marvel Comics in the nationally syndicated TV program, *Strictly Business!* All we can add is that we're proud of our part in helping spread the word about the dangers of drugs, and happy that the media helped us spread the message.

ITEM: Neither rain, nor snow, nor canceled airplane flights could keep Marvel's Mutant West Coast Tour 1987 from being a success. Comics shops who signed up in Washington, Oregon, and California hosted **Chris Claremont**, Louise Simonson, **Roger Stern**, **Brent Anderson**, and **Mark Silvestri** and all the fans who came to get the latest on what's happening with their favorite mutants. Thanks to everyone who refused to let the inclement weather slow down the show and who helped get the first tour under the new streamlined Marvel Personal Appearance Program off to a rousing start!

Our Personal Appearance Program, organized by Advertising Manager **Fabian Nicieza** and Special Events Sales Manager **Barbara Maier**, arranges for local comics specialty shops all across the country to have writers and artists, or actors portraying our costumed heroes and villains, come to their stores so they can meet and gab with you face to face!

So if you want to see your favorite comic book creator or super hero, drop a few hints with your local comics specialty shop owner—y'know, the guy who sold you this copy of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. Tell him to call Fabian or Barbara!

ITEM: With all the excitement about **Spider-Man's** wedding, you might think we forgot the 25th anniversary of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! Well, even if we had forgotten, **Owen McCarron**, who you may recall put together THE MARVEL FUN BOOK and a bunch of other activity books as well a few years ago, and who's now with *The Chronicle-Herald* and *The Mail-Star* newspapers, gave this great milestone in Marvel history front-page

SUPPLEMENT TO
The Chronicle-Herald and The Mail-Star
SATURDAY
JAN 10
1987

CAVALCADE OF COMICS

25 YEARS in COMICS

SPIDEY'S FIRST APPEARANCE in 1962

treatment in the newspapers' *Cavalcade of Comics* supplement! We were so tickled about what he did that we couldn't resist sharing it with you! Thanks, Owen!

ITEM: Remember in last issue's Summer Annual article, we told you that this year's PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL would feature a story to be written by **Stan Lee** and illustrated by **John Romita Sr.** and **Marie Severin**? It was a story originally scheduled for the third issue of our late 1960's comic magazine experiment SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. But the magazine was canceled before the story was completed. Well, we're afraid you're going to have to wait one more year to see that story.

But fear not, for we've still got a special tale for you! It features **Peter** and **Mary Jane Parker** on their honeymoon in the South of France! And it's written by **Jim Owsley** and illustrated by **Alan Kupperberg** and **Jim Fern**. As you might expect, the newlyweds are hoping to have the time of their lives. Unfortunately, the **Puma** has different plans in store! What happens then is . . . well, the best place to find out *that* is in PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #7!

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 2 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 10

Waiting for Death!

A dramatic flood of events will be keeping Marvel's mutants busy over the next few months. For instance, in X-FACTOR, written by Louise Simonson and drawn by Walt Simonson, the gradual, menacing formation of the Four Horsemen, and the apparent explosive death of the Angel is the biggest news! Regarding future events, Louise says, "We're waiting for Death," the one Horseman still missing from the sinister group. She says that about five percent of the fans have figured out what she and Walt are up to, and she thinks most people will realize Death's dark secret before the character appears in X-FACTOR #24 or 25.

X-FACTOR #20 will be a "Children's Crusade," featuring two of the young mutants discovered by X-Factor, Rusty and the newly-arrived Richter. Much of the tale will be their reaction to the dramatic events of #19 (which you'll discover shortly). The Angel's will is read in issue #21, during which, Louise says, "We find out Cameron Hodge is worse than anybody thought."

NEW MUTANTS WIN ONE, LOSE ONE!

Louise Simonson will also have a limited run as the writer of the NEW MUTANTS, relieving Chris Claremont. Issue #55, "Flying Wild," introduces a new character into the series. With Sunspot and Warlock still off in the FALLEN ANGELS series, this story mixes Lila's attempt at a singing career with attacking aliens. Battling the invaders, Sam (Cannonball) inadvertently smashes through a container holding a strange half-bird, half-human creature that was found frozen in the Arctic, and which is now restored to life. The following story is entitled "Scavenger Hunt," and features the search for the creature by both the New Mutants and their evil counterparts, the Hellions! The New Mutants eventually get the bizarre being, BUT at the conclusion, Amara joins the Hellions!

This issue is penciled by guest artist June Brigman (of POWER PACK). Bret Blevins is the series' regular penciler, and Terry Austin will be inking each issue.

The New Mutants dub their new companion "Birdbrain," and in issue #57, they bring him home to the X-Mansion. Their mentor, Magneto, isn't sure what to do with him, since no one knows what Birdbrain is: a mutant bird, a mutant boy or something else entirely? Author Simonson says Doug (Cypher) is not completely thrilled by the new arrival, since he feels Rahne is paying too much attention to Birdbrain, yet his language abilities represent the only chance the team has of convincing Magneto to let Birdbrain stay. The kids then decide to take the newcomer out, leading to a strange scene at an ice cream parlor!

Magneto's reaction to their actions form the title for issue #58: "Grounded!" Will the team obey Magneto's edict?

Change for Storm in X-MEN?

X-MEN #230–235 will feature the final resolution of the relationship between Ororo and Forge, the mutant weapons manufacturer. Writer Chris Claremont says many of the questions about Storm will be answered, including whether or not she will ever get her powers back. Marc Silvestri and Dan Green are the regular penciler and inker on the series, but Kerry Gammill

" It's Genetic "

by Kyle J. Baker.

From the book *100 uses for a 'Kick Me' Refrigerator Magnet*

will be penciling issue #223.

Claremont says X-MEN #225 will be a double-sized issue, the contents of which "will change the lives of, if not at least the X-Men, then every mutant in the Marvel Universe."

This year's X-MEN ANNUAL, due in early summer, is written by Chris and drawn by British artists Alan Davis and Paul Neary. The team faces the threat of Horde, a totally unstoppable being who wants nothing less than universal domination. Wolverine comes to realize that the only way Horde can be stopped is for Wolverine to die!

The FALLEN ANGELS Arrive in Coconut Grove!

In this Limited Series written penciled, and inked by Jo Duffy Kerry Gammill, and Tom Palmer the young, super-powered "outsiders" begin the sixth issue by individually coming to terms with the death of one of their number in the previous issue. Also, in the wake of the Mutant Massacre that's been felt in Marvel's other mutant books, the Angels decide that New York City is the wrong place to be. Ariel, who is from another planet, uses her teleportation ability to move all of the Angels to Coconut Grove, which Jo describes as "Las Vegas, but on a planet-wide scale." Much of the remainder of the series will take place on this strange casino planet.

—Ken Hart

The Wedding

They're goin' to the chapel and they're gonna get married! Press your tux and buy some cookware, because you're invited to a special wedding on June 14th!

Who's getting married? Why, none other than the hottest couple since **Madonna** and **Sean Penn** (or at least, **Johnny Storm** and **Alicia Masters**)! Get set, because in just a few short weeks, the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL will present the wedding of everybody's favorite friendly neighborhood **Spider-Man**, **Peter Parker**, and everybody's favorite redheaded model, **Mary Jane Watson**!

Peter and Mary Jane's wedding has been more than twenty years in the making, so it's no surprise that it's being treated with all the fanfare it deserves. In fact, not even Marvel Editor in Chief **Jim Shooter** and one of the men responsible for Spidey's existence, **Stan "The Man" Lee**, could resist taking a personal hand in the event!

Actually, the idea for the wedding originated with Stan himself. Stan recalls how he came up with it: "In doing the SPIDER-MAN newspaper strip [which Stan writes for newspapers across the country], I haven't been checking with Jim Shooter and he hasn't been checking with me. He's been doing the comic books, and I've been doing the newspaper strip my own way. One day, I found out that in the comic book, Mary Jane knew Spider-Man's secret identity, which surprised me. I figured it was silly that she didn't also know it in the strip, so I decided that she'd discover his identity in the strip too. Then I figured that if she knows who he is, he might as well marry her!

"I've been using Mary Jane as Peter's permanent girlfriend in the comic strip. He's met other women, but he keeps going back to Mary Jane. I'd wanted to marry them off. So when Mary Jane learned Peter's secret identity, it was the perfect excuse!"

So last year, when Stan was sitting on a panel at a comics convention with Jim Shooter, Stan mentioned his idea to Jim. And Jim agreed that it sounded great! Jim discussed Stan's idea with SPIDER-MAN (not to mention MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE) Editor Jim Salicrup, and the wheels were set in motion.

Everyone involved felt that an event as big as Peter Parker's wedding deserved as much exposure as possible.

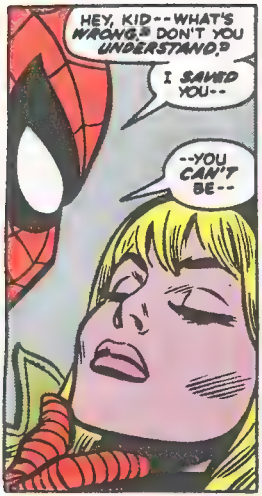
of the Year

As a result, the wedding will be featured in both the 1987 AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL and in the June 14th installment of the SPIDER-MAN newspaper strip! This will probably be the first story ever to appear simultaneously in a comic strip and a comic book. And while that makes the wedding even more of a milestone, it sure doesn't make it easy to put together! "I'm working closely with Stan and everyone involved to coordinate the wedding," says Spider-Man comic book editor **Jim Salicrup**. "The wedding sequence will be a bit different in the Annual, than from the comic strip, but I promise to make sure Peter marries the same person in both the strip and the comic! Heck, it's the least I can do!"

The ceremony will be rendered by D.P. 7 penciler **Paul Ryan** and inker **Vince Colletta** in the ANNUAL and by artist **Flora Dery** in the newspaper strip. As if two versions of the scene weren't enough, still more versions have been provided by one of the artists most closely associated with Spider-Man, **John Romita Sr.**! John is drawing two different covers for the ANNUAL. One features Peter marrying Mary Jane and will appear on copies distributed through comics specialty shops and other direct sales outlets. The other depicts Spider-Man marrying MJ against a background of some of Marvel's mightiest heroes and villains and will be used for newsstand copies. John must really enjoy drawing the wedding scene; he did yet another version for a promotional poster that King Features Syndicate (which distributes the comic strip) is sending out to the newspapers that carry SPIDER-MAN! You can take a peek at the poster just by looking at the cover of this issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

When Mary Jane first appeared all those years ago, did Stan ever suspect that she and Peter would tie the knot someday? "I thought that they might," he admits. "But when John Romita and I had **Gwen Stacy** in the

book, we thought Gwen might make a better girlfriend for Peter. Gwen was more serious and caring, and Mary Jane was a fun-loving hippie-type then. We wanted Gwen to be the heroine of the book, but no matter how we wrote it, Mary Jane always seemed more interesting! We used to joke about it: 'We can't even control our own characters!' "



Of course, Mary Jane wasn't the first woman in Peter's life. There have been a few others as well. Early on, Peter had a crush on his high school classmate, **Liz Allen**. Liz and Pete never did get together, but things worked out pretty well for Liz anyway. It was through Peter that Liz met her husband-to-be, **Harry Osborn**.

Peter's first real girlfriend was *Daily Bugle* publisher **J. Jonah Jameson's** secretary, **Betty Brant**. Peter and Betty gradually drifted apart, and Betty married *Daily Bugle* reporter **Ned Leeds**. If you've been reading about Spidey's recent adventures, you already know about the tragic ending of Betty and Ned's marriage.

Still, Peter never had a particularly serious relationship until he met Mary Jane Watson and Gwen Stacey. And then he had to decide between them! Peter wavered back and forth, and for a while, it looked as though he might settle on Gwen. But then, a titanic battle between Spider-Man and the **Green Goblin** cost Gwen her life.

As Peter got over his loss, he and Mary Jane slowly grew closer. So much so, in fact, that he even asked her to marry him! Mary Jane turned him down, supposedly because she wasn't ready for marriage. It wasn't until years later that the truth came out—she'd discovered that Peter was Spider-Man! Unable to cope with Peter's dual identity, Mary Jane left New York for a while.

In Mary Jane's absence, Peter tried to get interested in other women, such as cold, distant **Marcy Kane** and timid **Debra Whitman**, but none of them could take Mary Jane's place. (It was probably best that nothing did come of either of these relationships. After all, Debra had had a nervous breakdown when she began to suspect Peter's dual identity, and Marcy later turned out to be an alien.)

It looked like Peter might have finally found a replacement for Mary Jane in **Felicia Hardy**, alias the **Black Cat**. But while the Black Cat may have loved Spider-Man, she wasn't particularly attracted to plain old Peter Parker. So much for *that* relationship!

At last, Mary Jane returned, and Peter was pretty darn relieved. Originally, the two were determined to stay "just friends," but before too long, nature took its course and it was time to start shopping for china patterns.

Are Peter and Mary Jane really ready for marriage, though? That's the question they both keep asking themselves in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL, thanks to co-plotters Jim Shooter and **David Michelinie**. "As the wedding day draws near, Peter Parker is forced to face the reality of getting married," Jim reveals. "He remembers the tragedy that his past romances brought to Gwen Stacey and Betty Brant and thinks, 'Oh my God, am I really going to do this?' "

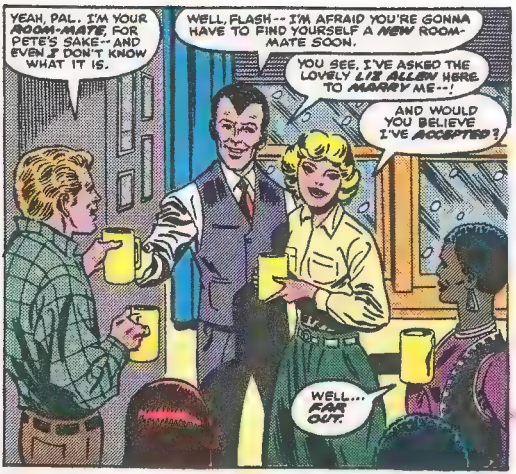
Laughing, Jim adds, "Meanwhile, Mary Jane wonders if being married means she's going to have to stop dating."

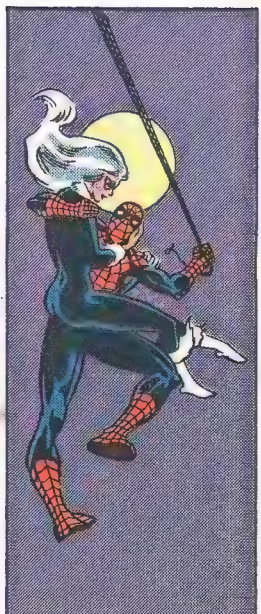
In fact, quite a few eligible men try to convince Mary Jane that getting married is a waste. One mysterious, persistent suitor keeps trying to convince her to leave Peter and accompany him to his villa in France instead!

While all of this is going on, Peter is wrestling with the fact that he once promised Gwen never to love anyone else. So by the time the wedding ceremony rolls around, it looks like there's a good chance that neither Peter nor Mary Jane will show up!

Even if they leave each other standing at the altar, however, the wedding has stirred up a whole lot of excitement around the Bullpen already. MARVEL SAGA is temporarily abandoning its usual chronological approach to Marvel's history to publish a special retrospective of Peter and Mary Jane's relationship (you can find the full details elsewhere in this issue)! Spidey's real-life bachelor party was one of the highlights of the international Toy Fair held in New York this February! Marvel even contacted a number of top fashion designers to create a custom-made wedding gown for Mary Jane, with the honor going to Willi Smith.

In short, everybody around the Bullpen is pretty thrilled about the wed-


YEAH, PAL.. I'M YOUR ROOM-MATE, FOR PETE'S SAKE--AND EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.
WELL, FLASH-- I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIND YOURSELF A NEW ROOM-MATE SOON.
YOU SEE, I'VE ASKED THE LOVELY LIZ ALLEN HERE TO MARRY ME--!
AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE I'VE ACCEPTED?
WELL... FAR OUT.



ding! "It's terrific to be involved in this milestone in Spider-Man's life," says Jim Shooter. "I always cry at weddings . . ."

But even with all of the interest the wedding has stirred up, it's safe to say that no one wishes the couple well more than Stan Lee himself! "I think everybody ought to be married at least once in this lifetime," Stan says. "I was kind of cruel to give Peter all of that frustration all those years. I'm glad to have the opportunity to make up for it all now."

—Sholly Fisch

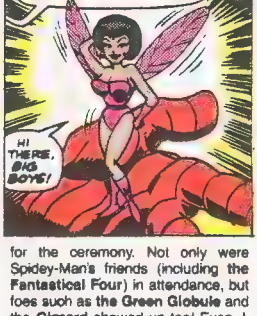
SPIDEY'S FIRST WEDDING

There's no doubt that Peter's marriage to Mary Jane is one of the most significant events in his life. But didja know that ol' Spidey has been married before?

Well, sort of.

You see, 'way back in the 1960's, Marvel published a way-out, wacky humor series called NOT BRAND ECCH. NOT BRAND ECCH was a series ahead of its time—nineteen years ahead of its time, to be exact! Because in 1968, not only did NOT BRAND ECCH #6 (the "big, batty love and hisses issue") feature the weddings of the **Human Scorch** to his girlfriend **Gristle** of the **Unhumans** and **Doctor Deranged** to the Dynamic Competition's **Wotta Woman** (in a hilarious parody of WEST SIDE STORY), but it also parodied a story that ultimately wouldn't appear until 1987—the wedding of **Spidey-Man**!

A star-studded guest list turned out



for the ceremony. Not only were Spidey-Man's friends (including the **Fantastical Four**) in attendance, but foes such as the **Green Globule** and the **Gizzard** showed up too! Even J. **Jawbone Junkton** attended!

But the big mystery was still the identity of the bride. At last, Spidey introduced the crowd to his intended—none other than the winsome **Wisp**! The ceremony went without a hitch. The **Vulture** even brought rice!

DeSpite its smooth start, the marriage ended tragically when **Peter Pooper** tried to introduce his miniscule bride to his dear old **Auntie May**. Unfortunately, sweet, old, nearsighted Auntie May mistook the Wisp for a housefly and swatted her! With a single blow of her handy flyswatter, Auntie May had turned Peter into an instant widower! The old Pooper luck had struck again.

Somehow, we've got a feeling that the wedding will turn out better this time around. But maybe Mary Jane ought to keep away from flyswatters for a while. After all, you never know . .

THE TIME: THE NEAR FUTURE. THE PLACE: THE HOME OF NEWLY MARRIED SPIDER-MAN AND MARY JANE. THE SITUATION:
...TERRIBLE.
I FEEL JUST TERRIBLE...
NOW NOW, PETER, IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
DING DONG
THERE THEY ARE NOW --TRY AND CHEER UP, OKAY, HON?
THIS IS GONNA BE THE MOST EMBARRASSING NIGHT OF MY LIFE...
JOHNNY! ALICIA! COME IN!
THANKS, MARY JANE. ARE WE ON TIME?
IN FACT YOU'RE EARLY. MAYBE YOU CAN USE THE TIME TO REASSURE PE--er, SPIDEY!
OKAY, LADIES, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME?..
HEY, WEBHEAD, HOW YOU FEELIN'?
THE WAY I USUALLY DO WHEN I GET MIXED UP IN ONE OF YOUR SCHEMES: TERRIBLE!
OOPS.
SORRY, ALICIA.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN. I REALIZE NOT EVERYONE IS AS SENSITIVE AS MY JOHNNY HERE.
SENSITIVE?-- JOHNNY STORM?? WHY, I--
C'MON, GROUP. THE HONEYMOON'S OVER--LET'S GO!
AND SO, SOMETIME LATER...
WITH THE WIVES SECLUDED SAFELY OFF-STAGE, IT'S TIME FOR SOME FIVE POINT QUESTIONS. AS YOU KNOW, GENTLEMEN, YOU'LL BE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS AS YOU PREDICT YOUR WIFE WILL ANSWER THE SAME QUESTION WHEN SHE RETURNS. IF HER ANSWER MATCHES YOUR PREDICTION, YOU'LL CHALK UP FIVE POINTS TOWARD A GRAND PRIZE THAT'S BEEN CHOSEN ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!
GENTLEMEN, HERE IS YOUR FIRST QUESTION: ON YOUR FIRST DATE WITH YOUR WIFE, USING THE NAME OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF X-FACTOR, HOW WOULD YOU BEST DESCRIBE YOUR BEHAVIOR?

HEY, BUDDY, I JUST THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD USE SOME FURNITURE?..
YEAH, YOU JUST THOUGHT! JUST LIKE YOU THOUGHT IT'D BE FUN FOR US TO GET TOGETHER AND STOP THE SANDMAN YEARS BACK. LET'S TEAM UP, YOU SAID.
WELL, IT WAS SORT OF A KICK AT THAT... FOR YOU. FOR ME, IT WAS MARVEL TEAM-UP #1, AND FOR THE NEXT 13 YEARS, I APPEARED IN 140 OUT OF 150 ISSUES PUBLISHED-- THAT'S NOT FUN, THAT'S EXHAUSTION! AND SOME OF THE WINNERS I HAD TO WORK WITH!!
IF BROTHER VOODOO EVER FILLS OUT AN APPLICATION TO JOIN THE F.F., MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL AND BURN IT!
THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST NOW, PAL--TONIGHT IS ABOUT A DIFFERENT TYPE OF TEAM-UP--MARRIAGE!
THAT'S ANOTHER THING, TORCH--IT'S HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE YOU'RE MARRIED!
WE'D BETTER GET GOING, BOYS!
WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE, GIRLS.
I MEAN ANYBODY WHO'D MARRY YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE BLI--
WERE YOU AN ICEMAN?
WERE YOU AN ANGEL?
OR WERE YOU A BEAST?
SPIDER-MAN, WE'LL START WITH YOU!
uh...
...I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, TORCH, I SWEAR I WILL...

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Imagine that! Practically this entire issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is devoted to Spidey's wedding! And when I got married, it didn't even make the local fanzines! Of course, when I got married there weren't any fanzines—people were still carving their messages on the walls of caves!

Anyway, if I may digress for a moment (I may? Oh, you wonderful, generous human being!), you're probably wondering what that odd-looking strip at the bottom of this page is all about. Well, wonder no more, O True Believer! Herewith is the authentic scuttlebutt . . .

Good ol' **Slim-Jim Salicrup**, the exemplary editor of this most erudite mag, found some old comic strips that had been filed away and forgotten years ago in the musty recesses of ye batty bullpen. One of those comic strips was a minor masterpiece from the dim past which had appeared in the newspapers for a number of years, drawn by Dazzlin' **Dan DeCarlo** and scripted by my own lovable self. Now here's the part that'll getcha where you live! Notice the name of the strip? Sound familiar? Well, now you know from whence I got the name of the **Fantastic Four**'s magniloquent mailman! Hey, the one guy I don't mind stealing from is me!

Speaking of **Willie Lumpkin**, I wonder how many of you know where the name **Irving Forbush** came from? No, it wasn't written in blazing letters across the sky; I actually dreamed it up. But where and when was it first used? Okay, scholars, take pen in hand—here's another chance for a non-tarnishable No-Prize!

Next, before we get on to the heavy stuff, I just wanna mention that this column's mail has been getting heavier each day. Much as I'd like to answer each and every letter (because it's easier than working), there's just no way. It's all I can do to get the time to read 'em. So don't be disappointed if you don't receive one of my suitable-for-framing answers to your own *billet doux*. In fact, count your blessings—my letters usually arrive "postage due"!

Now back to Spidey's wedding. No! I won't be a male chauvinist! I'll rephrase that! Now back to Mary Jane's wedding! There, that oughtta score me some points with the ladies! Anyway, there's nothing I can say about the happy couple's nuptials that hasn't already been said in the world's press, so here's a little trivia quiz for you old-time Marvel madmen. Can you remember another wedding, years ago, in which Jolly Jack Kirby drew himself and me crashing the union of two of our favorite characters? Remember the title of the mag? The issue number? Remember how Jack and I were drawn? Well, if you're expecting another No-Prize contest, forget it! All I'm wondering is, did the drawing do me justice?!!

Uh oh, before I go I promised a few dozen Spideyphiles I'd mention a major problem they've been having. Seems they've been searching for the big Ballantine book THE BEST OF SPIDER-MAN and found that it was sold-out in their bookstores. Well, we don't want any disappointed webheads running around loose, so if your book store is out of stock, I suggest you write to **Ms. Ann LeFarge**, Editor, Ballantine Books, 201 E. 50th St., NYC, NY 10022. If there are any copies left on Earth, Adorable Ann may be able to help you get 'em.

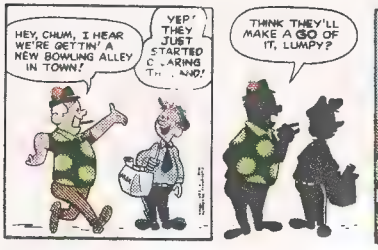
And that wraps it up for now. But don't get all teary-eyed about it. If **Dr. Doom**'s new jogging outfit doesn't rust up on him before he can conquer the world, I'll be back at the same old stand next ish to amaze and astound you with still another capricious column of startling unimportance!

Excelsior!

Stan

WILLIE LUMPKIN

© 1987 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo


HEY, CHUM, I HEAR WE'RE GETTIN' A NEW BOWLING ALLEY IN TOWN!
YEP! THEY JUST STARTED C...ARING TH... AND!
THINK THEY'LL MAKE A GO OF IT, LUMPY?
Y'KNOW, BOOMER, I WOULDN'T BE AT ALL SURPRISED!
SITE OF NEW BOWLING ALLEY
LEE and DeCARLO

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

Does this ever happen to you? It's one of my favorite phenomena in collecting comics, but I've never seen any fan columnist mention it. See if this experience is familiar . . .

I'll be paging through my collection, and I'll run across SUB-MARINER #5, with that great **John Buscema** cover of the debut of **Tiger Shark**. And all of a sudden it'll be the Fourth of July, 1968, and I'm sitting watching fireworks with my family. It's a beautiful summer evening, we're all sitting on a huge blanket with sodas and chips and snacks, and I've got copies of the latest exploits of Namor and Iron Man with me.

Or I'll spot a copy of SPIDER-MAN #123, the big first battle between **Spidey** and **Luke Cage**, and I'm back in ninth grade in my mind. It's Skip Day (that weird unofficial holiday), and a bunch of us are running off to the zoo, me and **Sue** and **Erik** and **Meredith Wait**, whom I had a huge crush on, and whom I wonder about to this day. Someone who was old enough to drive had gotten a van, and in the van were a batch of the latest Marvels.

Comics, it turns out, are as effective for me as Polaroids. They're valuable not just for their great stories and art, but also for the memories they summon up. Like emotional touchstones, my comics offer me a vast amount of important recollections. Even if I were to lose all interest in comics someday, I think I'll always hold on to my collection for its worth to me as a very special scrapbook of my past.

Since I'm awash in sentiment here, this month's quiz deals with families: the parents, children, aunts, uncles, and other relatives of the various Marvel super-types. You know the system by now: questions are arranged to start with recent history and go deeper and deeper into the past, and answers are on page 32. If ya get stuck on any of these family relationships, just stop a moment and try sentimentalizing about the question—it may come to ya!

—Brian Nelson

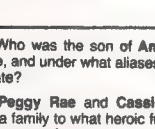
1. Who was the son of **American Eagle**, and under what aliases did he operate?

2. **Peggy Rae** and **Cassie** were once a family to what heroic friend of **the Avengers**?

3. What famous hero is the son of parents **Brian** and **Sharon**?

4. On a far-distant world lives an Earthwoman who left this planet when all her relatives, including her parents **Johnathan** and **Sarah**, were killed; can you name her?

5. What Avenger claims parents **Frank** and **Maria**?



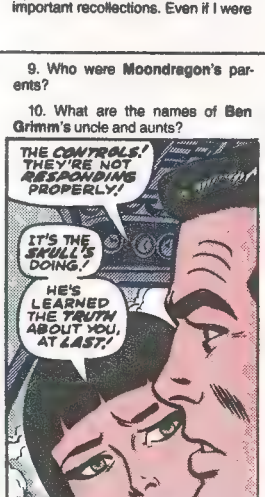
6. A former head of **Hydra** fathered twins; what are their names, and under what third name do they create terror?

7. Who is **Darkstar's** superpowered sibling?

8. **Viscount Krowler** is the ancestor of what longtime Marvel ne'er-do-well?

9. Who were **Moondragon's** parents?

10. What are the names of **Ben Grimm's** uncle and aunts?



Peter Parker's parents.

11. Whose mother operated under the alias **Barbara London**?

12. Instead of having a natural son, who did geneticists **David** and **Ellen Pace** create?

13. In **Spider-Man's** first MARVEL TEAM-UP adventure he and the **Human Torch** helped which supervillain to see his mom on Christmas?

14. What hero is the unique product of the marriage of **Stakar** and **Aleta**?

15. **Vincent Sandhurst** is dead now, but his evil brother lives on under what alias?

16. What are the names of **Peter Parker's** parents?

17. Who is the nephew of **Aunt Mayhem**? (Yes, Aunt Mayhem!)

18. Why should a couple named **Werner** and **Cynthia** have considered Planned Parenthood a bit more carefully?

19. They're brothers, they're villains, they're named **Luigi** and **Ernesto**—how are they better known?

20. **Franklin Richards**, **Reed** and **Sue's** son, is oddly enough named after one of the **Fantastic Four's** earliest foes. Who's the villain, and what's his relationship?

THE DRESS

If you think the big event uniting **Peter Parker** and **Mary Jane Watson** is going to be a model wedding, you're right. Not only because M.J. herself is a model, but also because she'll be parading down the aisle in a special bridal gown designed just for her by real-life fashion designer **Willi Smith**!

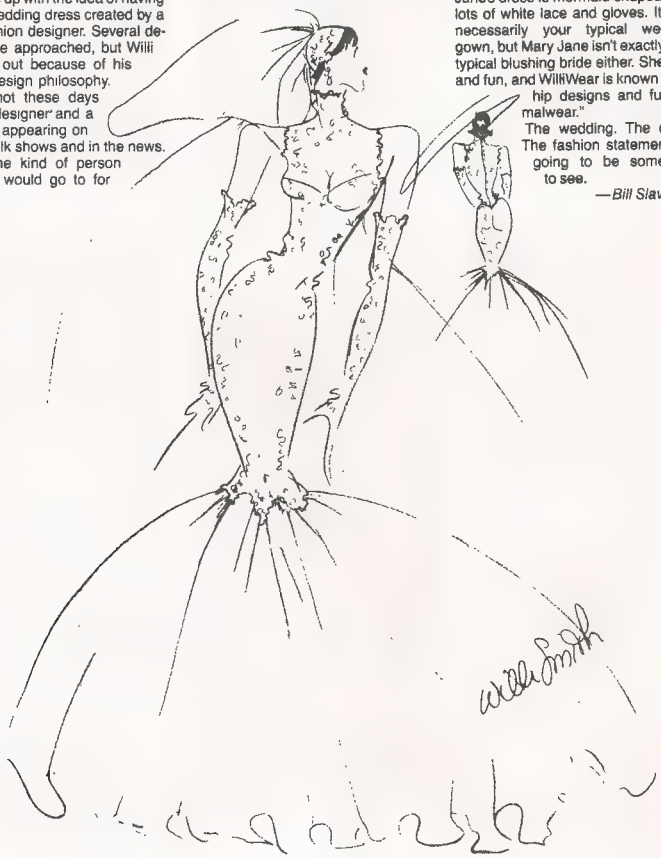
Marvel's Promotion Director **Steve Saffel** came up with the idea of having an actual wedding dress created by a famous fashion designer. Several designers were approached, but Willi Smith won out because of his style and design philosophy. He's also hot these days both as a designer and a personality, appearing on television talk shows and in the news. And he's the kind of person Mary Jane would go to for clothing

Mary Jane is fun-loving, kind of wild, and definitely original. On the happiest, most important day of her life, her wedding dress must echo all these things. WilliWear is known for its fun-loving, kind of wild, and definitely original creations. It's a match made in heaven. Just like the bride and groom.

"Willi thought it would be fun to design the dress for Mary Jane," said **Mark Bozek**, Director of Public Relations at WilliWear. "Marvel approached us after seeing the groom and ushers' outfits we designed for **Caroline Kennedy**'s wedding last July. So we put our creative process into the project and came up with what we believe to be the dress for Mary Jane. Mary Jane's dress is mermaid shaped, with lots of white lace and gloves. It's not necessarily your typical wedding gown, but Mary Jane isn't exactly your typical blushing bride either. She's hip and fun, and WilliWear is known for its hip designs and fun formalwear."

The wedding. The dress. The fashion statement. It's going to be something to see.

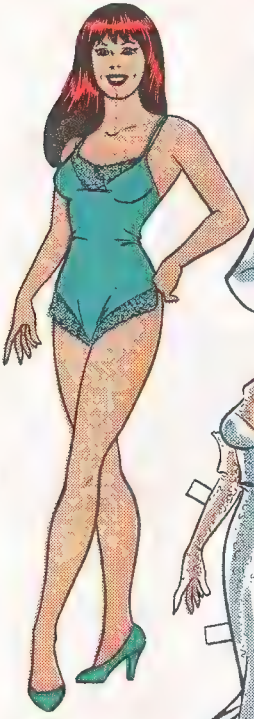
—Bill Slavicsek

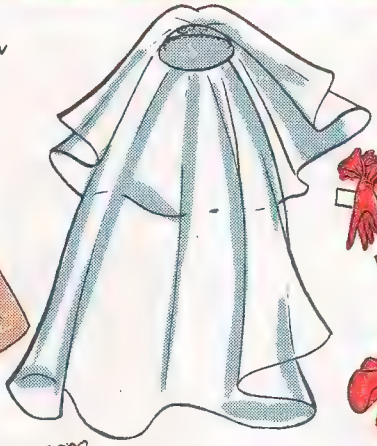


Willi Smith's original design sketch for Mary Jane Watson's wedding dress.

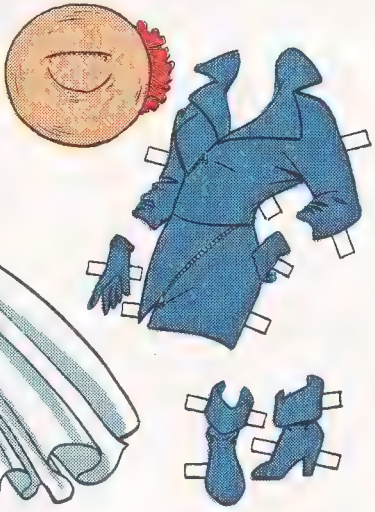
MARY JANE WATSON PAPER DOLL

AS AN EXTRA-SPECIAL TREAT, WE GOT JANET JACKSON, VINCE COLLETTA AND JOHN ROMITA TO CREATE THIS CUT-OUT COLLECTOR'S ITEM! ENJOY, TIGER!





HERE'S THE WEDDING DRESS AND A COUPLE OF BONUS OUTFITS!



PETER PARKER AND MARY JANE WATSON STAR IN

MARVEL SAGA

I'VE KNOWN YOUR SECRET FOR YEARS! UP UNTIL TODAY, I ALWAYS THOUGHT I COULD COPE WITH IT IF I EVER HAD TO EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND--BUT I CAN'T! I CAN'T--!
I JUST CAN'T COPE WITH THE FACT THAT PETER PARKER IS SECRETLY SPIDER-MAN!
TO BE CONTINUED--!

Unless you skipped the cover of this issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE and turned right to this page, you already know that **Peter Parker** is about to marry **Mary Jane Watson**. But what you might not know is that just seven short days before Peter and Mary Jane tie the knot in the 1987 AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL, MARVEL SAGA #22 will feature (in the words of its editor, **Adam Blaustein**) "a star-studded saga," a look back at Peter and Mary Jane's relationship over the years!

Tongue lodged firmly in cheek, Adam explains why MARVEL SAGA is abandoning its usual chronological approach to Marvel history for this special issue: "With an event as big as the wedding of peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-Man, and Mary Jane Watson, easily the most gorgeous hunk of female pulchritude in comics, there seemed little choice for us at MARVEL SAGA but to show you the history of how these two crazy kids got together."

Adam also has personal reasons for putting together this special issue "Having been assistant editor on the Spider-Man titles for about two years, I feel so close to the characters that this is like visiting old friends!" he says. "MARVEL SAGA #22 is a scrapbook, if you will, the sort of thing that anyone would want to have prior to his or her wedding.

"This is MARVEL SAGA'S wedding present to Peter and Mary Jane."

And what a wedding present it is! Jam-packed with artwork spanning more than twenty years, MARVEL SAGA #22 covers every major event in Peter and Mary Jane's relationship. It begins with the first mention of Mary Jane in THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ("You'll be surprised to see how early she was mentioned!" says Adam) and goes right up to the moment when MJ finally said "yes."

The idea for a special Peter and Mary Jane issue of MARVEL SAGA emerged when Adam was chatting with Marvel's Assistant Direct Sales Manager (and recent PETER PARKER scripter) **Peter David** about MARVEL SAGA in general. Peter (David, not Parker) recalls, "I asked Adam what MARVEL SAGA was up to and he said, 'Do you remember what milestone in Spider-Man's life happened around then? The first on-camera appearance of Mary Jane Watson!" Adam made a mad dash for Editor in Chief **Jim Shooter**'s office and quickly got the go-ahead to do an entire issue devoted to Pete and MJ.

But Peter David was still in for something of a surprise. Regular MARVEL SAGA writer/researcher **Peter Sanderson** was tied up with MARVEL SAGA's regular continuity. So the next day, Adam asked Peter David to write the issue! "How could I *not* do it?" Peter David says. "I'm an old romantic. Having been happily married for ten years, I'm a fan of 'And they got married and lived happily ever after.' I think Peter deserves some happiness, although considering the Parker luck, he probably *won't* live happily ever after."

The monumental task of putting this special issue together began with Peter David scouring every issue of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (as well as selected issues of PETER

PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN) for every major mention of Mary Jane Watson. "After my initial sweep, we had enough material to do the first 100-page issue of MARVEL SAGA!" Peter laughs. Peter and Adam discovered that the hard part was whittling the material down to fit in a scant 32 pages. Which is why Peter adds, "I strongly recommend reading all 292 issues of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!"

Of course, most people don't have access to a complete run of Spidey's adventures. But if you want to read about the ups and downs of Peter and Mary Jane's relationship, MARVEL SAGA #22 is the next best thing! And on top of its fun-filled, comprehensive review of Pete and MJ's life together, the issue also features special introductions by Jim Shooter and one of the wall-crawler's creators, **Stan "the Man" Lee**! Rounding out the package is a cover by one of the greatest SPIDER-MAN artists of all time, **John Romita Sr.**!

It looks like MARVEL SAGA #22 is destined to be a must for Spider-fans! And if you aren't already reading MARVEL SAGA regularly, this is a great time to start. Adam recently took the editorial reins of MARVEL SAGA, and he plans to take the series in some exciting new directions as it covers epics including the first **Inhumans** story, the introduction of **Galactus** and **The Silver Surfer**, and the saga of Cosmic Cube!

In the meantime, though, Adam's more than a little excited about the special Peter Parker and Mary Jane issue. "Excited?! Are you kidding?!" he exclaims. "It's like being invited to the wedding itself! I don't think you can beat that!"

Peter David echoes Adam's sentiments. As he puts it, "I think I can say, with no fear of sparing any hyperbole, that this is the major event in the life of the amazing Whatshisname, and I'm thrilled to have been chosen as the official biographer of the most tempestuous relationship since 'The Taming of the Shrew'!"

What can we possibly add to that, except 'Nuff Said?

—Shelly Fisch

IT'S A BACHELOR PARTY!
SPIDEY'S TAKING the PLUNGE!
SO COME JOIN HIS FRIENDS--AND A FEW ENEMIES--AS HE BIDS FAREWELL TO LIFE AS A "SWINGING" SINGLE!
HOSTS: MARVEL COMICS LICENSING

Every year the Toy Manufacturers of America come together at the Toy Fair, held in Manhattan's Toy Building on Fifth Avenue. This expo features displays by almost every major toy and game company who show off their newest products and most exciting merchandise. It is sort of a behind-the-scenes convention for the business end of the toy-making industry. Deals are made, contracts are signed, and the direction of toys and games for the coming year is decided.

Marvel always has a prominent role at the Toy Fair. Our super heroes are licensed to the toy companies so that board games, role-playing games, lunch boxes, all kinds of toys, and other items can bear the distinct likenesses of Spider-Man, Captain America, and everyone else in the Marvel Universe.

And to keep in the festive spirit of the Toy Fair, we try to come up with fun and interesting ways to display our creations to toy licensees, agents, sales people, and other guests to the convention. Usually we acomplish this with a party, and this year was no exception. But the party needed a special theme to make it stand out at the Fair.

"When our licensing department came to me and asked for a theme for the Toy Fair party, I suggested a bachelor party for Spider-Man," explained Editor in Chief **Jim Shooter**. "It was a business lunch on a grand scale with invitations and special decorations."

The Spider-Man bachelor party, designed to tie in with one of the biggest events to occur in a Marvel Comic this year, was a raving success. Over 600 people attended the gala affair, coming in from all around the world. The guests mingled, ate, drank, and were treated to a skit featuring actors (and a few Marvel staffers!) dressed as Marvel super heroes.

The super hero skit featured **Spider-Man**, **Ice-Man**, **Firestar**, **the Incredible Hulk**, and **Spider-Woman**. **Captain America** served as Master of Ceremonies in the sketch, written by Jim Shooter, that portrayed a bachelor party for Spider-Man to help celebrate his upcoming marriage to **Mary Jane Watson**. The skit concluded with long-time

SPIDER-MAN

(DRUM ROLL OR ATTENTION GETTER)

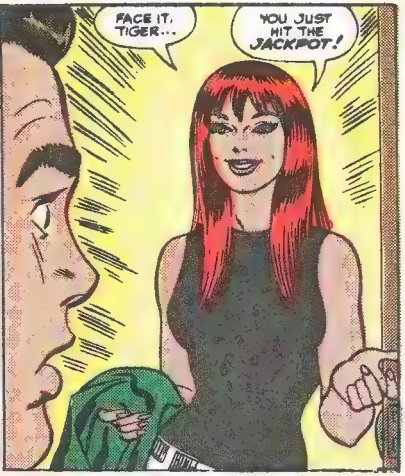
CAPTAIN AMERICA
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE! WE'RE GATHERED HERE THIS EVENING TO HONOR A VERY SPECIAL GUY ON THE EVE OF HIS WEDDING. THIS FELLOW HAS DRIVEN OFF SIX ALIEN INVASIONS, AVERTED NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST TWICE AND SEVENTEEN TIMES HAS THWARTED THE DASTARDLY PLANS OF THE DREADED GREEN GOBLIN . . .

SPIDER-MAN
ALL IN ONE WEEK!

CAP
AS I SAID, A VERY SPECIAL GUY. LET'S HAVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR OUR GUEST OF HONOR, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

(APPLAUSE)

CAP
AS YOU KNOW, OUR WEB-SLINGING FRIEND HERE IS HANGING ON TO BACHELORHOOD BY A THREAD. BY THE WAY, SPIDER-MAN, JUST WHEN IS THE WEDDING?



Spidey villain **the Green Goblin** jumping out of a cake to surprise Spidey. And then the future Mrs. Parker arrived to show off to the guests.

Actors played most of the roles in the sketch, but members of Marvel's staff volunteered to portray some of the super heroes. Production people **Dawn Geiger** and **Hector Collazo** played **Firestar** and **Iceman** respectively, and secretary **Karen Corbo** and editor **Don Daley** also took part in the show.

Balloons covered with hearts and Spider-Man designs filled the room, and huge blow-ups of comic book panels lined the walls. The panels depicted the Peter Parker-Mary Jane story from the first time the couple met right up to Peter's proposal. New World Pictures, the new owners of Marvel Comics, are talking about throwing a giant reception in June to honor the wedding of one of comicdom's most popular heroes and other media events are being planned.

As for the bachelor party at the Toy Fair, "a great time was had by all," said Jim Shooter.

—Bill Slavicsek

BACHELOR PARTY SCRIPT

SPIDER-MAN
JUNE 14TH.

CAP
JUNE 14TH? MUST BE A STRONG THREAD.

SPIDER-MAN
MY SPECIALTY.

CAP
WELL, BEFORE WE TOAST THE UPCOMING WEBBED WEDDING, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE A FEW OF OUR OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS . . . FIRST, THE INCREDIBLE HULK!!

(APPLAUSE, BUT THE HULK IS NOT PRESENT)

CAP
HEY, HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE HERE. WHERE IS HE?

ALL
ANYWHERE HE WANTS!!

CAP
UH-HUH. OKAY, NEXT, THE HOTTEST HEROINE IN TOWN. ANY TOWN. FIRESTAR!

FIRESTAR
AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A HOT TIME TONIGHT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT.

ICEMAN
YEAH, YEAH . . . COOL IT, RED.

CAP
AND OF COURSE, EVERY BARTENDER'S BEST FRIEND, THE ICEMAN!

ICEMAN
GIVE ME A BREAK!

CAP
ALSO WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE WITH US THAT OTHER ARACHNIDIAN ADVENTURER, SPIDER-WOMAN.

SPIDER-WOMAN
NO RELATION.

CAP
AND I, OF COURSE, AM CAPTAIN AMERICA.

ICEMAN
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HENNY YOUNGMAN.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.

CAP
TO THINK I RISK MY NECK PROTECTING HIS FREEDOM OF SPEECH . . . ANYWAY, SPIDER-MAN, WE'VE ARRANGED A LITTLE TRADITIONAL BACHELOR-PARTY SURPRISE FOR YOU. MAY WE HAVE THE CAKE PLEASE?

(THE CAKE IS WHEELED IN. DRUM ROLL.)

SPIDER-MAN
OH, NO . . .

ICEMAN
OH, YEAH! . . .

CAP
ALL TOGETHER NOW . . . (SINGS) FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW (ETC. . . .)

ALL
(JOIN IN. SPIDER-MAN LOOKS SUSPICIOUS. SENSES DANGER)

(SONG ENDS. APPLAUSE. WHEN IT ENDS, THE GREEN GOBLIN BURSTS OUT OF THE CAKE!)

GREEN GOBLIN
HA HA HA!!!!

CAP
IT'S . . . THE GREEN GOBLIN! STAND BACK, EVERYONE!!

(HEROES RUSH FORWARD, STRIKE DEFENSIVE POSES. SPIDER-MAN IS ESPECIALLY AGITATED.)

SPIDER-MAN
IT'S A TRAP! I KNEW IT! WHY DIDN'T I PAY ATTENTION TO MY SPIDER-SENSE—!!?

GREEN GOBLIN
OH, RELAX, WEB-HEAD. IT'S NOT A TRAP.

SPIDER-WOMAN
WHAT?

FIRESTAR
WHY NOT?

ICEMAN
PARTY POOP.

GREEN GOBLIN
I'M JUST HERE TO CONGRATULATE MY OLD FOE ON HIS IMPENDING MARRIAGE . . .

SPIDER-MAN
YOU WANT . . . A TRUCE?

GREEN GOBLIN
RIGHT. SHAKE, STUPID.

(THEY SHAKE. APPLAUSE)

CAP
TALK ABOUT UNEXPECTED GUESTS.

(RIM SHOT. MARY JANE ENTERS)

MJ
HIYA, TIGERS!!

SPIDER-MAN
MARY JANE!!

MJ
IN GLORIOUS LIVING COLOR, LOVER!

CAP
BUT . . . YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!

MJ
I DO LOTS OF THINGS I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO DO.

SPIDER-MAN
THAT'S HER SPECIALTY.

MJ
(TAKING SPIDER-MAN'S ARM, CUDDLING UP)
YOU BET. WELL, ARE YOU PEOPLE GOING TO STAND AROUND WITH YOUR MOUTHS HANGING OPEN, ARE ARE WE GOING TO PARTY?!!

CAP
YOU HEARD THE LADY, FOLKS. HERE'S TO SPIDER-MAN AND MARY JANE. LONG MAY THEY WAVE!!

(RIOTOUS CHEERING, DRINKING, CAROUSING, ETC. . . .)

THE MARVEL AGE. 1975 (Part I)

The Vietnam War was ending, but civil war was breaking out in Lebanon. **Jack Nicholson** was winning the Oscar, but **President Ford** was dodging assassins. Yet if 1975 was hectic in what we call the real world, it was twice as involved for the heroes of the Marvel Universe! For instance .

Everyone's favorite **Spider-Man** was being bedeviled by the mysterious **Jackal**, whose sinister machinations would reach their peak in '75. The year began with Spidey defeating **the Grizzly**, one of the Jackal's many pawns, in the same issue which would introduce a new member to **Peter Parker's** supporting cast, the lovely and talented **Glory Grant**! **Mysterio** then menaced our hero, but was this the original Mysterio, seemingly back from beyond? Nope—it turned out to be **Danny Burkhart**, a stuntman who had worked with the original Mysterio, and had appropriated his devices! (Not the first time that would happen, as the history of **the Hobgoblin** has proved!)

Mary Jane Watson and **Peter** began growing closer. They'd become so wrapped up with each other, in fact, that they suddenly discovered themselves kissing and kissing as Pete boarded a plan bound for France. A *Daily Bugle* assignment in Paris brought him into conflict with the super-speedster known as **the Cyclone**, but Spidey defeated him in short order and hurried back to M.J. There was a wrench in the romantic works, though—**Gwen Stacy** was alive!

The sight of her had put Aunt May into the hospital and thrown poor Pete into shock. Somehow, despite the fact that Gwen's grave had not been disturbed, a second, genuine Gwen Stacy was hanging around Pete's apartment, with no memory of her death at the hands of the Green Goblin two years before! Spidey tried to figure all this out while at the same time fending off attacks from **the Scorpion** and **the Tarantula**. But those nefarious nasties had been sicced after Spider-Man by the same person responsible for the mysterious return of Gwen. Who else but . . . the Jackal?

In one of the most suspenseful stories of the year, the Jackal and Tarantula lured Spidey back up to the bridge where Gwen had fallen to her tragic death. This time, though, it wasn't Gwen who was going to fall to her death, but the web-slinger himself! At least, those were the plans of the Jackal, who unexpectedly revealed his secret identity: none other than Pete's biology professor, **Miles Warren**!

Pete obviously saved himself from a near-fatal river plunge, and discovered the Jackal's origin: unbalanced by the death of Gwen Stacy, Prof. Warren had sworn vengeance upon the man he held responsible, Spider-Man. He had cloned Gwen from cell samples taken in his biology class, in order to see his beloved alive again. But that

wasn't the only clone he'd created! In his climactic battle against the Jackal, Spider-Man was faced with a clone of himself, a clone he had to defeat in order to save the lives of Gwen and **Ned Leeds**. The Jackal and the Spider-Man clone finally died in an explosion, bringing the whole epic to a close.

But was it over? For as Pete bid goodbye to the "new" Gwen Stacy, who couldn't remain in a town that thought her dead, he was haunted by a terrible thought: what if he was the clone, and it was his original self who died? Pete spent his 150th episode proving to himself that he was the genuine article, alive and well and ready to start a new series of adventures, courtesy of new scripter, **Len Wein**.

Meanwhile, **Gerry Conway**, author of the Jackal epic, was also keeping Spidey busy in GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN, which continued its series of off-the-wall team-up adventures. Issue #3 teamed the wall-crawler with the Man of Bronze, **Doc Savage**. A bizarre mystery begun in the 1930s had continued into the 1970s. While Doc and Spidey never met, Doc's spirit reached across the decades to help the amazing arachnid. Next Spider-Man teamed up with **the Punisher**, in an adventure which introduced the madman known as **Moses Magnum**. And finally, it was three-way battle in the swamps, as Spider-Man found himself caught between **the Lizard** and the monstrous **Man-Thing**. Reprints of great exploits from the past finished out the GIANT-SIZE issues, a wonderful experiment which came to a halt in late '75.

The Human Torch had his hands full alternating appearances with Spider-Man in MARVEL TEAM-UP. **Johnny Storm** was paired with **Iron Man**, **the Son of Satan**, and **Dr. Strange**, and by the end of the year, he was re-united in team-up action with Spidey himself. Meanwhile, Spidey's sparring partners included **the Falcon**, **Nighthawk**, **Valkyrie**, the **Frankenstein Monster**, **Man-Wolf**, and **the Beast**. It was a year for weird villains in TEAM-UP, including **Infinitous**, **Drom the Backwards Man**, and **Norton G. Fester**, the **Meteor Man**. The end of the year saw memorable excitement from new scripter **Bill Mantlo**, who brought back **the Big Man** and **the Enforcers**, introduced **Captain Jean DeWolff**, and presented in their first color comics appearance, **the Sons of the Tiger**!

Meanwhile things were really hopping with THE AVENGERS courtesy of writer **Steve Englehart** who scripted two marriages, three secret origins, a new team of heroes, and untold chapters in the history of the universe itself!

The year opened with **the Avengers** battling **Kang** who was on a quest to capture **Mantis**, **the Celestial Madonna**. Trapping the Avengers in limbo, he pitted them against dead opponents from the past: the Frankenstein Monster, **Wonder Man**, **Baron Zemo**, the martial arts master **Midnight**, and the android Human Torch. Iron Man was even to die at the hands of the Human Torch! But as **Monty Python** would put it, he got better—since it all happened in limbo, where time does not pass, it didn't quite actually happen at all! Fortunately, **Immortus**, **Master of Limbo**, was on hand to explain all this and to assist the Avengers in defeating the villainous Kang who was, in fact, his past self.

The battle had revealed an astonishing truth, however: the body of the android Human Torch was somehow identical to the body of the Vision. Immortus gave the Vision the means to discover the full truth behind his origin: that his form had actually been created to be the Human Torch in the 1930s, by inventor **Phineas T. Horton**! After the Torch's death at the hands of **the Mad Thinker**, his body had been found, rebuilt, and reprogrammed by **Ultron-5**, to make him the Vision we all know and love. With this full knowledge of his origins, the Vision felt like a whole being for the first time, and felt free to finally marry his beloved, **the Scarlet Witch**.

But wait—what about Mantis and her destiny as the cosmic Madonna? And why is her late love, the deceased **Swordsman**, wandering around looking all ghostly and green? Immortus clued us in with some real history. Millennia ago, the **Kree** had warred with the **Cotati**, a race of intelligent tree-creatures. The Cotati were almost wiped out, but knew that it was their destiny to further the life force of the universe: one day one of them would mate with a human female to produce a child who would save the universe!

Who was this female, the Celestial Madonna, to be? There were two choices. One was Mantis, an urchin raised in Asia who learned humility and the martial arts from the priests of Pama. The other choice was **Moondragon**, who had learned even more than Mantis—but who somehow had never been interested in humility. Mantis had virtues, therefore, which made her the choice to mate with the Cotati. But how does one mate with a tree? Just coincidentally, the Swordsman had been buried under the tree that was actually the last of the Cotati. It reanimated the Swordsman's body, and led it to Mantis—so that GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #4 actually saw a double-ring ceremony! Immortus did the honors for both the Scarlet Witch and the Vision and Mantis and the Cotati—and the year was only half over!

With half the team off on honeymoons, the Avengers had a member-

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

If you're interested in picking up any of the issues featured in this article, here's what you can expect to pay at your local comics specialty shop. Our source is **Robert Overstreet's** *THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE* #16. But remember: This is only a guide; actual prices may vary, and they should be even lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **AMAZING ADVENTURES**			
26–33		.30	.60
■ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**			
140 (intro **Glory Grant**)	.35	1.00	2.00
141–151	.25	.75	1.50
■ **ASTONISHING TALES**			
26–31 (29: **Guardians of Galaxy** reprint)		.50	1.00
32–33		.30	.60
■ **CAPTAIN AMERICA**			
181 (intro of new **Captain America**)		.50	1.00
182, 184, 185, 187–192		.40	.80
183 (death of new Cap; **Nomad** becomes Cap)		.50	1.00
186 (true origin **the Falcon**)		.60	1.20
■ **GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS**			
3	.40	1.20	2.40
4 (**Vision marries Scarlet Witch**)	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN**			
3–6	.25	.75	1.50
■ **MARVEL TEAM-UP**			
29–30	.35	1.00	2.00
31–40 (40: **Sons of the Tiger**)	.25	.75	1.50

ship crisis. Thor went on TV to put out the call, and the respondents included **the Beast**, Moondragon, and a returning **Yellowjacket**. The new team battled **the Frog**, **Whirlwind**, and the bizarre menace of an uncontrollably growing **Hank Pym**, but before long they'd find themsleves in another multi-parter, and who do you think the villain was?

Wouldja believe—Kang? Time travel enabled **Kang** to attack the Avengers countless times, and his new scheme was to conquer the 20th century by first conquering the 19th! To stop him, the Avengers traveled back to the 1880s, where they first met Marvel's western heroes, **Rawhide Kid**, **Kid Colt**, **Night Rider**, **Ringo Kid**, and **Two-Gun Kid**. The Kang Wars continued into 1976, illustrated by a powerful new penciller, one **George Perez**.

Steve Englehart had similar plot complications keeping us on the edge of our seat in CAPTAIN AMERICA. **Steve Rogers** had just assumed the identity of **the Nomad**, out of his disillusionment with the American Dream. A series of nobodies were announcing themselves as the new **Captain America**, only to get beaten up by the first big group of thugs to come along. But when one of these fledgling Caps, a personal friend of Steve's, was killed at the hands of **the Red Skull**, things changed. The Skull demanded to battle the real Cap, and Steve could avoid his destiny no longer. With vengeance in his heart he once more donned his shield-slinging garb and after too many months, issue #184 could announce proudly, "Cap's Back!"

But not even Cap could be prepared for what happened next! Charging into the Skull's lair with his partner, **the Falcon**, Cap suddenly found himself attacked—by his partner, the Falcon! A slave to the will of the Red Skull, **Sam Wilson** was revealed to have been a pawn of the Skull from the beginning! Originally a delinquent named "Snap" Wilson, the Skull had used the power of the Cosmic Cube many years before to reform him into Sam Wilson, set him up as Cap's partner, and save him as a future ace-in-the-hole!

With the help of S.H.I.E.L.D. agents **Gabe Jones** and **Peggy Carter** (who were becoming a romantic item between the flying bullets), Cap drove off the Skull—but what was to become of Sam? Could he reconcile his past as the narcotics pusher and petty gangster, "Snap" Wilson, with his present-day superheroic identity? While he wrestled with the problem, Cap battled such foes as **the Druid**, **the Stilt-Man**, and **Dr. Faustus**. The end of the year saw Sam brought to trial and absolved of the crimes committed by "Snap," and ready to start his life afresh.

Things were simpler for **Deathlok the Demolisher**; all he had to do was stay alive! In the pages of ASTONISHING TALES, he battled tanks, soldiers, the machinations of **General Ryker**, and the equally sordid schemes of the cyborg known as **Hellinger**! Was there ever a chance he would regain his life as **Luther Manning**? The future looked bleak . . .

And even bleaker in AMAZING ADVENTURES, where **Don McGregor** and **Craig Russell** weaved tales of hope and despair in 2019. **Killraven** and his friends continued to wage the War of the Worlds, tracked by the insidious **Skar** and **the Martian High Overlord**. One of the Martians' most diabolical schemes was brought to light: in a Chicago fortress known as **Deathbirth**, the Martian lackey known as the Fear-Master was breeding human babies, to be served to the Martians as culinary delicacies! With the help of the tempestuous **Volcana Ash**, Killraven destroyed Deathbirth, and he and his band continued to wend their way through a post-apocalyptic America.

The seeds of 1975 stories are still bearing fruit today, twelve years later: pick up Steve Englehart's SILVER SURFER series, with the return of Mantis, and you'll see what I mean. And for a good chuckle, you can search back and find the 1975 AVENGERS issue where yours truly had a letter published, urging that the Vision dump Wanda and take up with his more natural soulmate, Mantis. Shows you what I know, huh?

—Brian Nelson

LETTER RIP!

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016

This month's rather evocative letter column title comes to us from the far-off wilds of Belford, New Jersey, courtesy of our pal, Frank Valenti. Thanks a lot, Frank!

Before we take Frank's advice and let 'er rip, we just want to remind the rest of you that we need new titles for this letter column every month, so send 'em on in! We'll even print your name in this space as our way of saying "thanks." After all, if everyone reading this sent in just one letter column title, we might not be able to wipe out world hunger, but we would have enough titles to last us for the next couple of centuries!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

What say: Any chance for a new team a *la* the **Defenders** or **Champions**? Marvel has a number of great characters that are not currently featured anywhere. My choices for such a group would include **Moon Knight, Hellcat, Thunderbird, Falcon, Cleo,** and **Ka-Zar.**

Michael Woodmansee
10 Administration Rd.
Baldaewaty, MA 02324

Well, Michael, keep your eyes peeled, because a few of the super heroes you just mentioned are already popping up. Moon Knight is now a West Coast Avenger and the Falcon is going to be helping his one-time partner Steve Rogers, the original Captain America. And even though the Hellions is not exactly a super *hero* team, it does count Thunderbird as one of its members. Let's see, that takes care of half your list—which means if we were playing baseball we'd be batting .500! Not bad for your batty Bullpen, eh?

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

What will happen to this letter after you read it?

Dennis Viau, Jr.
3508 Maryland Ave.
Racine, Wis. 53405

Why, everyone else will read it, of course!

Dear Marvel,

On page 30 of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #46, you say that the only mutant in **Power Pack** is **Franklin Richards**. However, as I understand it, mutant abilities don't develop until puberty. Since Franklin isn't more than six years old, he can't have mutant powers yet, can he?

The only explanation I can think of is that his powers are a latent effect of when he temporarily grew to adulthood in THE FANTASTIC FOUR. If this isn't the case, please tell me what it is.

Chris Reich
Room 605 White Hall
University Station
Laramie, Wyo. 82071

Not a bad explanation, Chris, but Franklin's powers occasionally manifested themselves before he turned into an adult for a while in FANTASTIC FOUR #245. We figure that the answer's even simpler: Some mutants' powers begin to develop even before puberty! Another early bloomer who springs to mind is the Beast; ol' Hank has had abnormally large (not to mention strong) hands and feet since birth.

Guess heroes really are born, not made, sometimes.

Dear Marvel,

In MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #49, in the article about Marvel Productions, **Shelly Fisch** credits the cartoon staff of DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH with the idea that the identity of the **Phantom** has been passed down from father to son for centuries. The truth of the matter is, that aspect of the Phantom's history was developed by his creator, **Lee Falk**. It is nothing new to the Phantom's history; it has always been known. The present Phantom is the 21st in a long line of Phantoms. The tradition was created by Lee Falk, not the DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH staff.

And although this has nothing to do with the matter at hand, let me add that if the DOTE staff was so concerned with the histories of each character (another thing Mr. Fisch claimed), somebody should have told them that the Phantom does not have any super powers.

Dale J. Roberts
Messiah College
Grantham, PA 17027

Well, Dale, you're absolutely right about Lee Falk's establishing the tradition of the Phantom identity being passed down through the generations. But that was the point! If you re-read the article, you'll see that Shelly was praising the DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH staff for coming up with an explanation that was consistent with the history of the Phantom, not for making one up on their own.

Incidentally, the Phantom *did* have a super power in Lee Falk's original comic strip . . . at least once or twice. According to Marvel

Productions staffer Rick Hoberg, the DOTE staff discovered the Phantom's ability to call upon "the strength of ten tigers" in the course of their extensive research into the original PHANTOM comic strip. Each of the DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH heroes was thoroughly researched before the series was produced, and each is being treated with the love and respect he deserves.

Uh, Guys:
Have there been any Marvel mags that Sabretooth *hasn't* appeared in this year?

Gary A. Brda
27344 Kennedy Dr.
Dearborn Hgts., MI 48127

Let's see . . . He hasn't been in THE POPPLES yet, has he?

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,
The other day, I looked at one of my old MASTER OF KUNG-FU comics. I was checking to see who did the artwork. My eye caught the name **Ralph Macchio**. Is this the same Ralph Macchio who played **Daniel Larusso** in "The Karate Kid"?

J. Bob Holmes
335 Columbia Cir.
Waterloo, Iowa 50701

No, J. Bob, the Ralph Macchio who edited MASTER OF KUNG-FU is the same one who now edits series such as DAREDEVIL and THOR, but he isn't the one who starred in The Karate Kid. Our Ralph took a lot of ribbing around the time the movie came out because of his namesake.
But you know, Ralph still hasn't explained who that elderly Japanese guy he hangs around with is.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,
Peace be with you! I just wanted to say, "May Marvel live on forever with a bright glow of the moon and the smell of flowers" . . . man. Stay cool, man. I love you all.

Moonbeam Starchild
729 W. 20th Ave
Vancouver, B.C
Canada V5Z 1Y2

Like groovy, Moonbeam!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.
It seems that every time I walk into my comic store lately, the amount of Marvel merchandise seems to be accumulating rapidly. Now, don't get me wrong, I don't object, but among all those posters, wall hangings, buttons, T-shirts, etc. there is one thing missing and being a comic book collector as well as a movie card collector, I would like to see a set of Marvel Universe cards with all of the characters that have appeared in the series (both) plus team cards, stickers, and don't forget gum. With all the characters you have, it would be a great idea. Please take it into consideration I'm sure I'd appreciate it as well as every other Marvelite. This would tie in nicely with the 25th anniversary celebration.

Traie Payne
1415 Prince Rd
Windsor, Ont
Canada N9C 3A8

Boy, Traie, you must be psychic! Even as we write this, the first series of 90 Marvel Universe trading cards should be arriving at stores throughout the globe, thanks to the friendly folks at Comic Images.
And just wait 'til you see the Silver Surfer's lifetime R.B.I.!

And now it's the moment you've been waiting for, as we proudly unveil this issue's LETTER OF THE MONTH! Each month, we pick a letter (or if we're in a particularly good mood, two letters) which we think will be of special interest to the world at large and print it against an equally special yellow background. You won't find anything like that in TIME or NEWSWEEK!

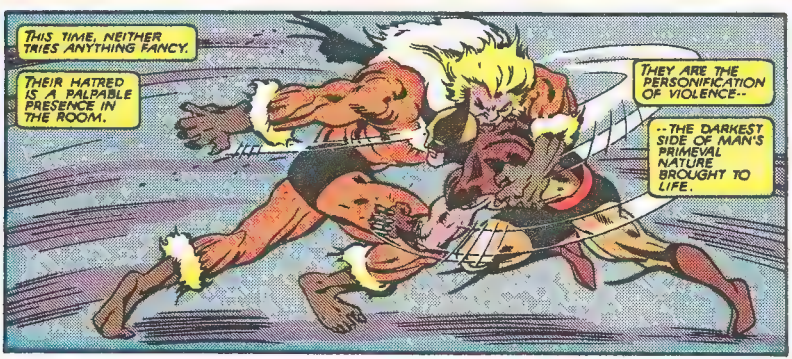
Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,
You have done several comics based on popular toys such as THE MICRONAUTS, THE TRANSFORMERS, and G.I. JOE. When you do this, what hold does the toy company have over you? Do you have to use every character that they create and do you help the company make new characters? And when the toy is no longer produced, like with THE MICRONAUTS, what freedom are you given?

Chris Tuthill
184 Walton Ave.
Union, MNJ 07083

Well, we've got freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to bear arms . . .

Actually, you asked some good questions there, Chris. Let's see if we can give you some good answers.

It all boils down to teamwork. Often we'll work with a toy company on a new concept from the very beginning. And once we get all the ground rules established, our writers and artists are only limited by their imaginations. As you may have already noticed, that's when anything can happen—and often does!


THIS TIME, NEITHER TRIES ANYTHING FANCY.
THEIR HATRED IS A PALPABLE PRESENCE IN THE ROOM.
THEY ARE THE PERSONIFICATION OF VIOLENCE--
--THE DARKEST SIDE OF MAN'S PRIMEVAL NATURE BROUGHT TO LIFE.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Let me say that I agree with **Abelardo D. Flores**. I would love to see the **Fin**, the **Blazing Skull**, the **Vision**, the **Angel**, the **Destroyer**, and other early characters from the First Age of Marvel. While several, such as the Skull, would probably be too old to still be a crime fighter, the original Vision, as a being from another dimension, might still be in the prime of life. Other characters, such as the original Angel, might have had some sort of super abilities, but it was never quite clear from the stories. Perhaps the Angel's stamina bordered on the superhuman, making him able to go on fighting evil even into his sixties (**Conan** did, remember).

Marvel's 25th anniversary may have come and gone, but coming up in only two years is Timely/Marvel's 50th anniversary. So for such an occasion, may I recommend the return of the series MARVEL COMICS, featuring the heroes of the Golden Age of Comics? Perhaps you could run a story from '39, '49, '59, '69, '79, and '89 in the special anniversary edition, showing how Marvel has changed over the years and giving a sneak preview of what the Marvel Universe will be like in the '90's.

Ronald C. Morgan II,
President of the Society for
the Return of Golden Age
Heroes
15519 Domart Ave.
Norwalk, CA 90650

We're big fans of the Golden Age characters ourselves, Ronald, and we'd like to see more of them, too. Of course, in the meantime, our top three Golden Age characters are still around. Captain America's still got his own series. The Sub-Mariner still pops up from time to time. And there's always the original Human Torch, even though he looks and acts kind of different now that he's the Vision.

Your suggestions for the 50th anniversary sound darned interesting, though. Hmm

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

In issue #49, in your article on 1974 issues of several Marvel Comics, you have a picture of an issue of DAREDEVIL. The cover shown says it is the August issue #112. The cover didn't look familiar, so I checked my collection and discovered that the issue of #112 that I owned has a different cover illustration and storyline. Could you explain this? Did I miss something? I checked all of my other DAREDEVILs and didn't find any with the cover you showed. I would truly like to know why this is since I am a big DARDEVIL fan and I own almost all the DAREDEVIL issues published. Does this mean I get a No-Prize for being so observant to point this out?

On a different note, I thoroughly enjoy MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. I find it entertaining and informative.

Until **Matt Murdock** gets a mohawk,
Make Mine Marvel!

Valerie J. Hoberg
368 So. Wellwood Ave.
Lindenhurst NY 11757

Are you saying that the DAREDEVIL cover we printed wasn't the real one, Valerie? Boy, next you'll be telling us that Lectronn, Master of the Atom never existed!

Dear MARVEL AGE people,

Why did you include a nonexistent super hero named **Lectronn** in your recent Marvel history (MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #49, p. 26)?

I've been meaning to write to you about this since it came out.

Dana A. Snow
7356 Beverly Blvd. #3
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Gee, Dana, it seemed like a funny idea at the time.

Looks like we're about out of room again. Just enough space left to remind you all that next issue marks the debut of the MARVEL AGE PEN PALS column. To join in on the fun, just send us your name, address, age, and the titles of three of your favorite Marvel series to:

MARVEL AGE PEN PALS
c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

And while you're at it, we're still looking for a snappy name for the column, so send us your suggestions! We also want to take a moment to remind you that we'd love to answer each of your letters individually, but we get so much mail that there just aren't enough hours in the day for it. We really do read and appreciate every letter, though. So keep those cards and letters coming in!

MIGHTY MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. **James Dore**, aka **Cap'n Hawk**, and later **Blue Eagle** (and according to one edition of the MARVEL UNIVERSE Handbook, he was even briefly known as the **Condor**!).

2. **Peggy Rae** is ex-wife of, and **Cassie** is still daughter to, **Scott Lang**, the astonishing **Ant-Man**!

3. **Brian** and **Sharon** were the **Xaviers**, parents of **Charles Xavier, Professor X**.

4. **Brandy Clark**, now living on Galador with her beloved, **Rom**.

5. The chairwoman of the **Avengers, Capt. Marvel**.

6. **Andrea** and **Andreas Strucker** are terrorists operating under the name **Fenris**—which may have **Thor** a bit confused.

7. **Vanguard**, also her teammate in the **Soviet Super-Soldiers**!

8. His grandson, **Baron Mordo**.

9. **Art** and **Yvette Douglas**; Yvette died in a tragic car accident, but Art was reborn, of course, as **Drax the Destroyer**.

10. **Jacob Grimm** was married first to **Alyce**, and then to the beautiful, the legendary, the one-and-only, **Petunia**!

11. **Alison Blaire, the Dazzler.**

12. **Woodgod**, as told in the classic pages of MARVEL PREMIERE #31

13. The answer is in the very title of the story "Have Yourself A Sandman Little Christmas."

14. **Starhawk**, leader of the **Guardians of the Galaxy**.

15. **Basil Sandhurst, the Controller**.

16. **Richard** and **Mary Parker**, who should have put more money into life insurance.

17. **Aunt Mayhem** is, of course, guardian to her nephew **Irving Forbush**, a.k.a. **Forbush-Man**!

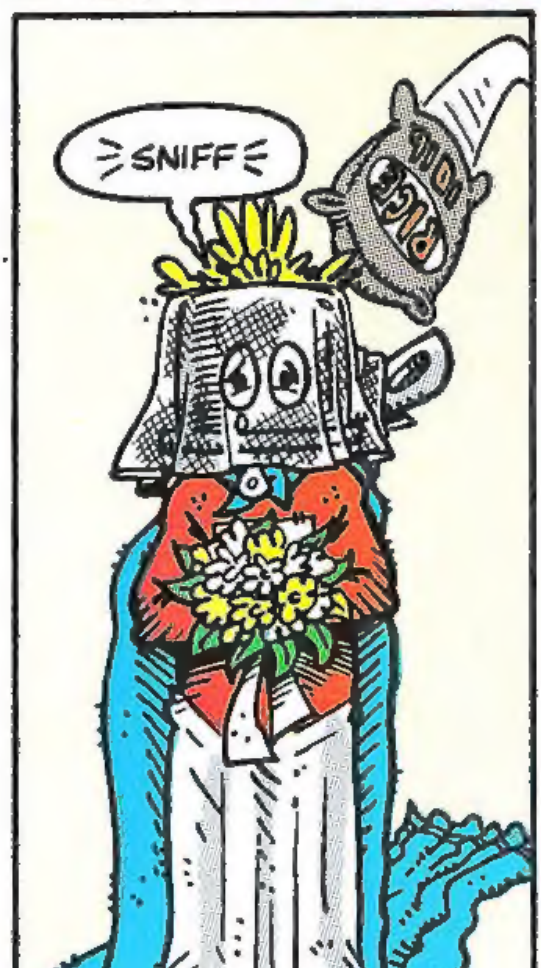
18. **Werner** and **Cynthia Von Doom** might have spared us all a lot of trouble if they had looked into adoption, rather than giving birth to their notorious son, **Victor**!

19. **Luigi** and **Ernesto** are the **Great Gambonnos**, charter members of the **Circus of Crime**.

20. **Franklin Storm**, Sue's father, fought the FF as the **Immortal Man**. His name was later given to her son.

THE 1987 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR OF MARVEL'S JUNE O' COURSE



MIKE CARLIN—WRITER RON ZALME—ARTIST PAUL BECTON—COLO

WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
3 WAS FIN FANG FOOM REALLY THE FIRST FRIEND OF OL' MARVEL?
I DUNNO.
TODAY IS JOE RUBINSTEIN'S BIRTHDAY!
EAT YOUR HEART OUT REMBRANDT!
5
6 IT'S JUNE 6th -- DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1 IS?
10
TODAY IS CHARLES VESS'S BIRTHDAY!
11
12 FLASH! PETER PARKER TAKES SOME PICTURES...
...FILM AT 11!
13
17
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARK GRUENWALD!
18
19
20 ISN'T IT TIME FOR CLASSIC FANTASTIC FOUR?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DOREEN FREDERICK, FROM THE WHOLE BLAMED BULLPEN!
24
25 TOMORROW IS WARREN KREMER'S BIRTHDAY!
26 IT'S TOM DEFALCO'S BIRTHDAY!
HOLD UP TO MIRROR FOR SECRET MESSAGE!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
27
Jackson Guice
SCHOOL'S OUT!
PUBLIC SCHOOL
YAHOOOO!